

VOL. 25

1974/75

the Sea Swallow



BEING THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE ROYAL NAVAL
BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

PUBLISHED 1976

ROYAL NAVAL BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

Affiliated to:

The International Council for Bird Preservation, British Section
The British Trust for Ornithology

Patron:

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, K.G.

President:

Admiral Sir N. S. Henderson, G.B.E., K.C.B.

Vice-Presidents:

The Master, The Honourable Company of Master Mariners
Commandant M. I. Talbot, C.B., Hon. A.D.C., Director W.R.N.S.
Miss C. F. J. Cooke, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.R.R.N.S.
Commander Sir Peter Scott, K.B.E., D.S.C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman and Editor:

Captain G. S. Tuck, D.S.O., R.N. (retd.), M.B.O.U.

Vice-Chairmen:

Captain Sir Thomas Barlow, Bt., D.S.C., R.N. (retd.), M.B.O.U.

Captain E. F. Aikman, R.D., R.N.R., representing Merchant Navy membership

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

Lieut.-Commander E. S. W. Maclure, R.N. (retd.), M.B.O.U.

Assistant Editorial and Secretarial Staff:

Captain N. B. J. Stapleton, R.D.	Meteorological Bird Reports
J. H. Agnew, Esq.	Ocean Weather Ships—Sea-birds Analysis

Commander M. B. Casement, R.N., M.B.O.U. Landbirds at Sea—
Analyses: (a) Ocean Weather Ship records, (b) Sea Passage Reports, (c) Landbirds examined in the hand

Captain E. F. Aikman, R.D., R.N.R. (a) For all replenishments of Sea Report passage forms, (b) Assistant to Hon. Secretary

The following Ornithologists kindly assist in an advisory capacity:

Dr J. G. Harrison, Dr B. B. Roberts, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards, C.B.E., D.J. Watkins-Pitchford, Esq., R. M. Lockley, Esq.

Addresses for Correspondence:

Chairman—8 Little London, Chichester, Sussex, PO19 1PH
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (and for details of membership)—

“Melrose”, 23 St David’s Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QH

Captain E. F. Aikman, R.D., R.N.R.—“St Cyrus West”, 48 Hepburn Gardens, St Andrews, Fife Scotland, KY16 9DF

Commander M. B. Casement, R.N.—H.M.S. *Mohawk*, c/o. B.F.P.O. Ships. (Home—Dene Cottage, West Harting, Petersfield, Hants)

Captain N. B. J. Stapleton, R.D.—38 Wilbury Crescent, Hove, Sussex, BN3 6FJ

J. H. Agnew, Esq.—210 Main Road, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 5AJ

Dr W. R. P. Bourne—University of Aberdeen, Department of Zoology, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen, AB9 2TN



GREAT BLUE HERON Onboard H.M.S. Hermes.
Photographed on the flight Deck.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	1
CONTENTS	3
FOREWORD	4
EDITORIAL	5
A SEABIRD STUDY OVER THE SEA ROUTE FROM NORTH SEA PORTS TO CAPETOWN	
By Captain G. S. Tuck, D.S.O., R.N., R.N.B.W.S.	7
THE VISIT OF R.F.A. <i>RELIANT</i> TO THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, 6-10 OCTOBER 1974	
By Radio Officer W. F. Curtis, M.N., R.N.B.W.S.	11
A VISIT TO HUNTER AND MATTHEW ISLANDS, TWO LITTLE-KNOWN ISLANDS IN THE HUNTER ISLAND RIDGE, SOUTHEAST BY EAST OF THE NEW HEBRIDES CHAIN, BY H.M.S. <i>HYDRA</i> , SURVEYING SHIP, 26th JUNE, 1974	
Extract from personal log of Lieutenant M. K. Barritt, R.N., R.N.B.W.S.... ..	13
SEABIRD OBSERVATIONS FROM OCEAN WEATHER SHIPS IN NORTH ATLANTIC	
General Summary by J. H. Agnew	15
LANDBIRD SUMMARY: O.W.S. STATION REPORTS - LANDBIRDS, LANDBIRDS EXAMINED IN THE HAND, SEA PASSAGE REPORTS LANDBIRDS, TABLES A-G	
By Commander M. B. Casement, R.N.	17
EXTRACT FROM METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS (Birds)	
Summarised by Captain N. B. J. Stapleton, R.D.	45
SHORT NOTES	48
NEW MEMBERS (to 1st November, 1975)	52
FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1974	<i>end paper</i>

FOREWORD

In writing this foreword to the 1974/1975 edition of *Sea Swallow* I cannot commend highly enough all those under the indefatigable and enthusiastic leadership of our Chairman, Captain Gerald Tuck, who has managed to produce and maintain its standard of interest and excellence against all odds in these difficult times.

Our society remains unique in being the only one which seeks exclusively throughout the world knowledge of seabirds studied in their own wild environment and usually away from the land.

Our contribution is valuable and could well be expanded. Few of us are experts, but we can all contribute our own little bit of knowledge about the habits and whereabouts of ocean birds from observations at sea.

It is well worth encouraging as many of our seagoing friends, particularly the younger ones, who will thus add a new dimension to their life at sea by interesting themselves in the wonders of the teeming bird life of the oceans.

What better way of doing it than through the R.N.B.W.S.?

NIGEL HENDERSON, *President*

EDITORIAL

This is the 25th annual edition of *Sea Swallow* for which I have had the privilege to act as Editor, and it is most encouraging to realise that not only has the number of our full members increased steadily, but the interest and coverage in reporting the distribution and identity of both seabirds and landbirds observed in the oceans has increased also.

Unfortunately the rate of inflation has continued to overtake us financially as those full members to whom our routine bulletins are circulated will have noticed in bulletin No. 91. To some species of seabirds such as Frigate-birds whose gular pouches are also subject to inflation, this is fortunately of no consequence!

In this volume it will be seen that 33 new members have joined.

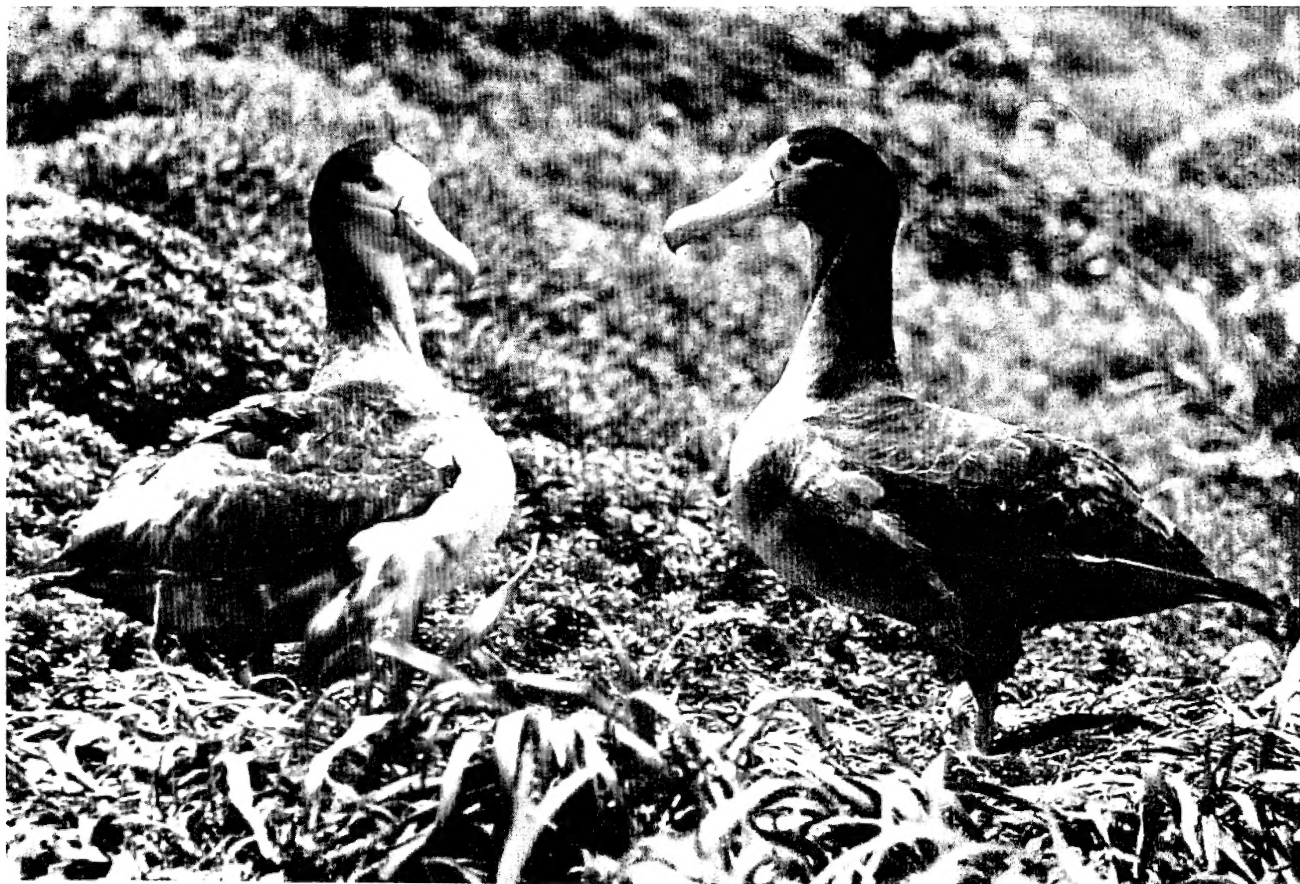
Combined sea passage and census sheet returns of seabirds covering 67 passages have been received; 22 passages covering reports of landbirds at sea; 34 reports of seabirds examined and measured in the hand, largely of Storm-petrels and Sooty Terns arriving onboard, and 9 similar reports of landbirds examined and measured in the hand. This excludes, however, 31 meticulously prepared combined sea and landbird passage reports, mostly covering passages off the west and east coasts of South Africa from 1968-1975, received from Walter Weitkowitz, a new member in the German Mercantile marine, which have not as yet been evaluated and plotted. We are most grateful to all observers.

The monthly returns received from the Meteorological Offices of sea and landbirds reported in ships' meteorological log returns show a welcome increase. Comments by R.N.B.W.S. are passed back, and we are very grateful to Mr J. D. Brown who forwards these returns, and to Captain C. R. Downes, Editor of the *Marine Observer* for including remarks, and in some cases R.N.B.W.S. appropriate photographs in the magazine as opportunity arises.

Finally, apart from the normal sea and landbird report sheets the Editor would welcome separately any *additional* short articles or notes arising from the habits and behaviour of birds observed at sea, the condition and treatment of species which arrive onboard, and any other particular observations for consideration in publishing in *Sea Swallow*. Photographs are welcomed particularly for the R.N.B.W.S. slide and photograph library.

My thanks to all for their continued interest in the study of birds at sea.

G. S. TUCK, *Editor*.



SUB-ADULT SHORT-TAILED STELLER'S ALBATROSSES, *Diomedea albatrus*.
TORISHIMA ISLAND, MAY 1973 Reproduced by courtesy of Dr W. L. N. Tickell
Note large pink bills and legs, and underbodies becoming white

A SEABIRD STUDY OVER THE SEA ROUTE FROM NORTH SEA PORTS TO CAPETOWN

By Captain G. S. Tuck, D.S.O., R.N.

In recent years largely due to the previous closing of the Suez Canal, many ships with R.N.B.W.S. observers onboard have provided a wealth of seabird observations plotted along this route.

The spring and late autumn months provide the most prolific opportunities, for during these seasons many species are on their seasonal migrations.

The following study covers the period from late September to late November and quotes the seabirds most likely to be seen as a voyage proceeds. In certain cases a brief clue to identification is quoted, but in this study space does not provide detailed descriptions, nor indeed does it claim to include every possible species that may appear unexpectedly.

For the sake of brevity the scientific title of a species is only given on the first occasion that it is mentioned and reference back should be made if necessary on later occasions.

THE EARLY STAGE OF A VOYAGE

Observers will be well acquainted with the species likely to be seen in the North Sea and English Channel such as the Fulmar Petrel, *Fulmarus glacialis*; Northern Gannet, *Sula bassana*; Common Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*; Common, Herring, Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-backed, Northern Black-headed and Kittiwake Gulls, *Larus canus*, *L. argentatus*, *L. marinus*, *L. fuscus fuscus*, and *L. fuscus graellsii*, and *Rissa tridactyla*. The Common Guillemot, *Uria asaage*, Razorbill, *Alca torda*, and Atlantic Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*, are more likely to be seen towards the western end of the English Channel.

THE WESTERN APPROACHES TO THE CHANNEL

On reaching more open waters Fulmar Petrels and Kittiwakes will continue. Manx Shearwaters, *Puffinus p. puffinus*, will be commencing to migrate southwards from British breeding colonies to winter off the west coast of South America and west coast of Southern Africa. It may be seen planing low over the sea on long narrow dark wings, the dark of its upperparts showing against the white of its underparts as it tilts and shearwaters on rigid wings interspersed with a few wingbeats. Here also the little British Storm-petrel may be seen for the first time (*Hydrobates pelagicus*). This very small dark bird, if seen searching and fluttering in the ship's wake, shows a white square patch above the rump, short dark legs and a dark square tail. A few of the Gulls mentioned earlier may be following a ship still.

THE BAY OF BISCAY

During the crossing a ship will pass beyond the normal range of inshore and offshore seabirds although Great Black-backed Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gulls and the occasional Northern Gannet will be seen at times as they disperse to more southerly areas at this season. Kittiwakes will continue to be seen. The sighting of a Great Skua, *Catharacta skua*, following a ship is a regular occurrence, easily identified by its heavy build, overall brownish plumage set off in flight by the noticeable pale patches towards the outer end of its rather broad wings.

Three species of Shearwaters may well be seen, the Great Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*, Cory's Shearwater, *Calonectris diomedea*, and the Sooty Shearwater, *Puffinus griseus*. The Great and Sooty Shearwaters will be on their return journey to their South Atlantic breeding quarters, the Cory's Shearwater dispersing southwards to winter off the southwestern coasts of South Africa. Both the Great and Cory's Shearwaters are larger and browner than the Manx Shearwater, and are both very similar. The Great Shearwater is distinguished best by the sight of its very dark "cap" showing against a whitish colour and its long slender grey bill. Cory's lacks the distinguishing dark cap and has a noticeably yellow bill. Both species may show a curved white band of feathers behind the rump. The Sooty Shearwater is rather heavily built, sooty brown above and slightly paler below but looks almost black at sea except for distinctly pale central underwing linings which should be looked for.

In the southern quarter of the Bay both Wilson's Storm-petrels, *Oceanites oceanicus*, and Leach's Storm-petrels, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, both dark white rumped species may be seen. The former is a regular ship follower with long dangling legs terminating with yellow webs to its feet, the legs just peeping out behind its square tail in flight. Leach's is somewhat larger and browner, has a noticeably forked tail, and some dark central feathers dividing its white rump patch. It also has a freer flight.

The two smaller Skuas, the Pomarine Skua, *Stercorarius pomarinus*, and the Arctic Skua, *Stercorarius parasiticus*, also occur during their migration southward from breeding areas in high northern latitudes, and are likely to be seen at intervals throughout the whole passage to Capetown. They both occur in light and dark phases and in adults best distinguished by their differing types of short protruding central tail feathers; Arctic sharply pointed, Pomarine slightly larger and with twisted tail feathers.

THE BULGE OF NORTHWEST AFRICA

By the time a ship is west of the Straits of Gibraltar new species should be looked for in addition to those already observed. Gulls and Terns are probably at too great a distance from land to

be seen except occasionally. At Madeira the Little Shearwater, *Puffinus assimilis*, Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulwerii*, and the Madeiran Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*, breed and often wander further north. The Little Shearwater is similar but much smaller than the Manx Shearwater, also in the area, but it flies with more frequent and rapid wingbeats and should not be difficult to identify. Bulwer's Petrel is a very small Petrel with overall dark brown plumage and a noticeably long wedge-shaped tail, and its undulating flight low over the sea helps to distinguish it. The Madeiran Storm-petrel is so much like the British and Wilson's Storm-petrel that it is often mistaken at sea. It does not tend to follow ships to the same extent and has a freer flight. Another species which breeds on the Salvage Islands is the White-faced Storm-petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*, reported frequently on account of its distinctly different plumage. Its white face showing a dark eye patch, grey portions of upperparts, white underparts and fast, more zig-zagging flight, are very different from the other dark Storm-petrels.

Should a ship pass through the Canary Islands, both Common Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Yellow-legged Herring Gulls and perhaps a Great Black-backed Gull may be seen wintering there. Common and Little Terns, *Sterna hirundo* and *S. albifrons*, may also be seen.

Throughout the area from now on and roughly between 30 degrees and 10 degrees North, enormous numbers of seabirds pass on seasonal migrations. The Shearwaters, Storm-petrels and Skuas quoted earlier are seen regularly with a chance sighting of a Long-tailed Skua, *Stercorarius longicaudus*.

One feature at this season is the concentration of considerable numbers of Northern Gannets, both adults and immatures, for this is a favourite wintering area. It is also a wintering area for flocks of Grey Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, and for Sabine's Gulls, *Xema sabini*, arriving from their breeding areas in the high Arctic. The Sabine's Gull is conspicuous, its winter white plumage set off by an upperwing plumage of three distinct adjacent triangles showing grey, white and black. Its tail is slightly forked.

Closer inshore Terns are seen sometimes in large flocks, both the Common, Roseate, Caspian, Sandwich and Little Terns, *Sterna hirundo*, *S. dougalli*, *S. caspia*, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, and *S. albifrons*. The Royal Tern, *Thalasseus maximus*, and Grey-headed Gull, *Larus cirrocephalus*, are seen more rarely. The spectacle of large flocks of Black Terns, *Chidonias nigra*, has also been reported.

THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

Some new species breed on the islands, amongst them the Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster*, Magnificent Frigate-bird, *Fregata magnificens*, Red-billed Tropic-bird, *Phaethon aethereus*, and Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis*: Bulwer's Petrel also breeds

there. The first three species have been reported occasionally along the route. Meantime the southward passing Great and Cory's Shearwaters, Wilson's and White-faced Storm-petrels and Skuas are likely to be seen. Ships calling at ports in the area may well observe the more inshore Gulls and Terns quoted previously. The Soft-plumaged Petrel with its slate-grey upperparts, white face and underbody, the latter usually showing a dark breast band, is best distinguished from the White-faced Storm-petrel by its larger size and totally dark underwings together with its fast flight on angled wings.

SOUTHWARDS FROM SIERRA LEONE

The route now diverges from the proximity of land well to the west of the Gulf of Guinea. Sooty Terns, *Sterna fuscata*, will be seen almost certainly. They breed on Sao Tomé Island within the Gulf, and also on Ascension and St Helena Islands, and numbers migrate from the Caribbean area across the Atlantic in the autumn to this part of the coast of South Africa. Red-billed Tropic-birds from Ascension Island have been seen occasionally.

ONWARDS TOWARDS CAPETOWN

During the southern winter from about May to September, several of the Southern Ocean species work well northwards over the cool Benguela Current. For example, Wandering Albatrosses, *Diomedea exulans*, may reach about twelve degrees south. In the southern summer months from autumn onwards, the first of these oceanic seabirds is more likely to be seen in the region of the Tropic of Capricorn 23½ degrees south. Most probably the first indication will be that of a Wandering Albatross following a ship. From then onwards the number and variety of species will increase rapidly. Black-browed Albatrosses, *Diomedea melanophris*, will soon join and Yellow-nosed Albatrosses, *Diomedea chlororhynchos*, will appear. Here too the Shy Albatross, *Diomedea cauta*, may be seen less frequently and usually keeps clear of ships. It must be remembered the Albatrosses take several years to reach full adult plumage, birds in immature plumage being present frequently. In adult plumage a study of the colour of their bills and upper and underwing pattern helps to identify them but, particularly in Wandering Albatrosses, the mottled brown immature plumages may be confusing. Two very common ship followers are the heavily-built sooty-black White-chinned Petrel, *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, and the Cape Pigeon or Pintado Petrel, *Daption capensis*, the former showing broad long wings, a whitish chin and massive yellowish or horn-coloured bill, the latter unmistakable in its piebald plumage. Schlegel's Petrels, *Pterodroma incerta*, which breed on Tristan da Cunha Island amongst many other species including the Great Shearwater, may also be seen and flocks of

small Prions, *Pachyptila s.p.*, and the Great-winged or Grey-faced Petrel, *Pterodroma macroptera*, occurs also. This is rather heavily built, of overall dark brown plumage with a grey patch at the base of the short black bill, extending sometimes to the forehead and exceptionally long wings. It pays no attention to ships. Further south the Giant Petrel, *Macronectes giganteus*, may occur, and as a ship closes the coast Cape Gannets, *Sula capensis*, and Jackass Penguins, *Spheniscus demersus*, may be seen offshore.

TABLE BAY

The Southern Black-backed Gull, *Larus dominicus*, Hartlaub's or Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*, and other Gulls and Terns may occur.

*

General Note. No mention has been made of species of Cormorants local to South Africa for they have not been reported on the sea route.

THE VISIT OF R.F.A. *RELIANT* TO THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, 6-10 OCTOBER 1974

By W. F. Curtis

R.F.A. *Reliant* visited Diego Garcia and the outlying islands of the Chagos Archipelago for four days in early October. On the 7th and 8th the vessel conveyed the Royal Naval Liaison Officer on a tour of some of the outlying islands with a view to landing on the Ile Boddam in the Salomon group and the Ile du Coin in the Peros Banhos group. Both these islands once held settlements of 100-200 people but were deserted some while previously. On the 6th and 9th the vessel was at anchor in the lagoon at Diego Garcia, about a mile from the entrance towards the northwest tip.

At present there are some 1200 persons on Diego Garcia, mainly construction workers of the United States forces, concerned with extending the airstrip to 10,000 ft. There is also a communications station of the United States armed forces. Both are situated off the western side of the island and owing to the limited time spent ashore were the only areas visited. It would seem from previous accounts of the bird life of the island (*Sea Swallow* 19:38-39) that there has been little change in the past few years.

On entering the lagoon via main passage (which is at present being dredged), East Island seemed to be undisturbed with large numbers of Great Frigate-birds, *Fregata minor*, White Terns, *Gygis alba*, and Crested Terns, *Sterna bergii*, in the vicinity. Smaller numbers of Common and Lesser Noddies, *Anous stolidus* and *A. tenuirostris*, and Black-naped Terns, *Sterna sumatrana*, were seen

in the lagoon. A single Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*, flew over the vessel towards the south of the lagoon and occasional Red-footed Boobies, *Sula sula*, were seen offshore. The limited time ashore was spent in the vicinity of the settlement in the northeast of the island. Here, Madagascar Fodies, *Foudia madagascariensis*, and Madagascar Turtle Doves, *Streptopelia picturata*, were both well represented, and there were a few Indian Mynahs, *Acridotheres tristis*, and three Cattle Egrets, *Bubulcus ibis*. On the shore of the lagoon there were two Little Green Herons, *Butorides striatus*, four Curlews, *Numenius arquata*, one Whimbrel, four Turnstones, *Arenaria interpres*, and a single Curlew Sandpiper, *Calidris testacea*.

On 7th October the vessel left Diego Garcia via the main passage for the vicinity of Salomon atoll. While passing close to East Island we saw 250 Great Frigate-birds, three Lesser Frigate-birds, *Fregata ariel*, 130 Red-footed Boobies, 120 White Terns, 35 Crested Terns, three Sooty Terns, *Sterna fuscata*, eight Lesser Noddies and 17 Turnstones.

During the late afternoon and early evening the vessel reached the vicinity of the Salomon islands. In the hour before dark 350 Sooty Terns, 180 Red-footed Boobies, 180 Common Noddies and six White-tailed Tropic-birds, *Phaethon lepturus*, were seen flying steadily in the direction of Nelson Island to the south, and three Fleishy-footed Shearwaters, *Puffinus carneipes*, eight Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, *Puffinus pacificus*, nine other dark Shearwaters belonging to one of these species, and a single Pomarine Skua, *Stercorarius pomarinus*, were seen in the vicinity flying in no particular direction.

On the morning of 8th October the vessel closed Ile Boddam in order to land the R.N.L.O. with a view to visiting the settlement. It had been abandoned for about two years judging from the decay of the buildings. Owing to the lack of water inside the lagoon coupled with the falling tide, it was possible to stay ashore for only about fifteen minutes. Donkeys had been left behind by the previous inhabitants and chalk writings on the ruined chapel indicated recent landings. The most numerous bird was the White Tern. Madagascar Fodies and Turnstones were quite numerous; several Great Frigate-birds were seen in the lagoon, and there were two Curlew Sandpipers and a Marsh Sandpiper, *Tringa stagnatilis*, along the shore. Seabirds were fairly numerous outside the islands, including Sooty Terns, Common and Lesser Noddies, Great and occasionally Lesser Frigate-birds. A few Fleishy-footed Shearwaters, one Wedge-tailed Shearwater, three Audubon's Shearwaters, *Puffinus lherminieri*, one Wilson's Storm-petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*, and small numbers of Red-footed Boobies were seen some five miles offshore.

In the afternoon a landing was attempted on the Ile du Coin in the Peros Banhos group. Lack of water near the jetty made this impossible and a short time was spent cruising up and down the

lagoon shore. Again the settlement had been deserted some time before, possibly about the same time as that on Ile Boddam. Three donkeys were seen at the eastern end of the island. The Madagascar Fody was heard and the Pied Crow, *Corvus albus*, and Cattle Egret seen near the old settlement, and Curlew Sandpiper and Turnstone flying along the shore. Sooty Terns and Common Noddies were frequent outside the lagoon with small numbers of Great Frigate-birds, and single Lesser Frigate-birds and Audubon's Shearwaters with a few Wedge-tailed Shearwaters seen a few miles offshore.

The vessel returned to anchor in the lagoon at Diego Garcia on 9th October though it was impossible to go ashore. The bird life was much as before. On the 10th the vessel left, bound in a westerly direction. The noon position was 06°57'S 71°44'E. Between 1400-1500 hrs. local time we saw at least 160 Sooty Terns, 25 Common Noddies, 130 Red-footed Boobies, one Wedge-tailed Shearwater, three Wilson's Storm-petrels, one White-faced Storm-petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*, and a Temminck's Stint, *Calidris temminckii*, which landed for some twenty minutes before departing to the southeast.

(The birds of the Chagos group have recently been reviewed by W. R. P. Bourne in Atoll Research Bulletin 149:175-207. Since then A. M. Hutson has described a visit to Diego Garcia between March and May 1971 in Atoll Research Bulletin 175:1-25, and Dr David Bellamy has led two expeditions to the western islands, accompanied by M. J. D. Hirons as ornithologist, with interesting results which have not been published yet. No ornithologist appears to have visited the northern islands for some years, and it had not previously been realised that they have been abandoned, though people may continue to visit them to harvest the coconuts. The reduction in the human population in the outer Chagos islands appears to have been accompanied by a gratifying increase in the number of seabirds reported, especially the Frigate-birds, and it is to be hoped that some measure of surveillance will be maintained to prevent depredations by visiting fishermen. The Pomarine Skua, Marsh Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint and Pied Crow reported here appear to be new for the group. W.R.P.B.)

A VISIT TO HUNTER AND MATTHEW ISLANDS,
TWO LITTLE-KNOWN ISLANDS IN THE
HUNTER ISLAND RIDGE, SOUTH-EAST BY EAST
OF THE NEW HEBRIDES CHAIN, BY H.M.S. *HYDRA*,
SURVEYING SHIP, 26TH JUNE 1974

Extract from personal log of
Lieutenant M. K. Barritt, R.N., R.N.B.W.S.

Hunter Island (22° 23.6'S, 172° 05.5'E) is a volcanic peak, the upper slopes of which are clothed in bushes. Several smudges of fresh sulphur deposits mark the lower slopes.

We approached from the west and from about 7 miles distance were investigated by increasing and very inquisitive numbers of Red-footed Boobies, *Sula sula*. The majority were immatures, all in dull grey plumage, paler underneath with dark bands across their chests, grey bills with base and facial skin blue. The adults were in beautiful white plumage with primaries only black and splendid blue bills. One immature attempted to land on the jackstaff flying so close to the ensign and mast that it almost collided with the radar aerial. We were also investigated by an immature Lesser Frigate-bird, *Fregata ariel*. A Red-tailed Tropic-bird, *Phaethon rubricauda*, was disturbed from the water.

At a rough estimate there were 200-300 Lesser Frigate-birds, about 2,000 Red-footed Boobies and a smaller number of Brown Boobies, *Sula leucogaster*, hovering over the bushy upper slopes, and many white-coloured Boobies appeared to be roosting in the bushes.

After circling close to the island we altered to the west to close Matthew Island 41 miles distant ($22^{\circ}20.6'S$, $171^{\circ}20.7'E$).

Flocks of about 40 Red-footed Boobies were seen out to about 15 miles from Hunter Island and for a while half-way between the islands were alone. One uncertain seabird about the size of a Storm-petrel was seen however, but insufficient detail could be noted apart from a white breast and belly and underwing-coverts and a median upperwing stripe. It had a low fast-flapping flight. When 12 miles from Matthew Island more Frigate-birds and Boobies appeared.

Matthew Island would provide much fruit for the imagination of a novelist. It consists of two peaks separated by an isthmus. The large peak is punctured by a huge crater filled with sulphurous vapours and marked with yellow deposits. The sea at this point is also coloured with floating sulphur. The only vegetation is some scant scrub on rubbly slopes, particularly on the west of the island.

To add to this drama we observed the wreck of a small piston aircraft on the isthmus. A parachute, some tools and an empty bottle of Auvergne water was recovered by our helicopter. There was no sign of the pilot. We learnt later from Noumea that the pilot had been recovered six months earlier.

The crags to the northwest of the main part of the island appear to be the home of about 10,000 Sooty Terns, *Sterna fuscata*, concentrated in the area. Some Sooties were sitting on the water for short periods riding like Tropic-birds. Some looked unusual, their tails appearing very long and white-tipped. The bill was black, the crown white and the broad black eye stripe ran back into the dark black nape which merges straight into the black-grey mantle. There was a very thin white line at the leading edge of the wing and the outer edges of the very long tail were white.

Three tantalising birds, the size of small Terns with white medium stripe on black wings and very fast wingbeats, were inadequately observed from my Flight Deck Officer position.

(Note by Editor: The Storm-petrel quoted may or may not have been the White-throated Storm-petrel, *Nesofregatta fuliginosa*. The unusual "Sooty Terns" may well have been Bridled Terns, *Sterna anaethetus*. The description conforms exactly with a photograph of this species in D. I. Sorventy's "Handbook of Australian Seabirds". Lt. Barritt would not have had the opportunity of seeing many other species probably visiting the islands and the last species quoted may have been Waders.)

OCEAN WEATHER SHIP REPORTS 1974/1975 SEABIRDS

It is now eight years since the daily recording of all seabirds identified "on station" came into being effectively. These records have been obtained entirely through the hard work of the observers whose names have appeared regularly in *Sea Swallow*.

From this flow of information much has been learned already of the general seasonal distribution of "resident" species at sea, although numbers undoubtedly concentrated around the ships on station. Also much useful knowledge has been gained with regard to migration.

Unfortunately today Stations Alfa and Kilo are no longer occupied by British Ocean Weather Ships. However, observations are still being sent in with gratifying regularity from India and Juliet.

In *Sea Swallow* Vol. 21 1969/70, a first deduction of seabird distribution appeared as a result of earlier returns. In this present volume a new look is being taken at the general pattern in lieu of the normal table A - which is being kept on file. Stations India and Juliet only are considered, as reports from Lima were recorded for the first time this year. (N.B. Station Lima is in position 57°00'N 20°00'W.)

During 1974/75 the following observers sent in most valuable returns: M. Allwright; R. C. Aran; R. J. Burness; B. P. Cooper; R. B. Dyer; J. H. Halls; P. H. Hoare; E. D. Maedonald; D. Ogle; P. Swan; S. J. Whitelock.

Fulmar Petrels and Kittiwakes occur in large numbers at both Stations India and Juliet at all seasons, though there seemed to be fewer Fulmars and Kittiwakes than usual at Station India during the month of February 1975. Great Shearwaters appear at the northern limits of their migration in fair numbers at India in July, with larger numbers at Juliet. Numbers at Juliet swell in early October, occasionally into large flocks, commencing their southerly movement. Cory's Shearwaters do not penetrate to India but reach Juliet occasionally in September. Sooty Shearwaters follow a similar pattern to Great Shearwaters, but in much smaller numbers.

Gannets are rarely seen at either Station during winter months, but their numbers increase from late May to August.

Skuas (sp.) can be sighted more or less throughout the year at Juliet, while at India they are more likely to be seen from May to August, with the occasional sighting in September/October.

Lesser Black-backed and Greater Black-backed Gulls can be expected in both areas at any time of the year, though the Lesser Black-backed tends not to be in evidence in the months of January and February – and 1975 was no exception in this respect. Herring Gulls and Common Gulls appear in ones and twos – usually during the late spring – at both Stations. Glaucous and Iceland Gulls are logged as occasional sightings at both Stations, usually in November or March.

Late summer is the most likely time to see Terns (sp.) on migration, while sightings of the family *Alcidae* are usually recorded in early summer.

Of the birds listed under "Others" there were three sightings of note in the 1974/75 reports; 14 Little Shearwaters and a Little Gull at Lima during August/September, and a Bulwer's Petrel at Juliet in December (see below).

The following notes are abstracted from Observers' comments: GREAT SHEARWATERS. 16th September 1974. Fairly large numbers of Pilot Whales in the area after midday; 17th, Pilot Whales still there in numbers and surmise that there is a high plankton content in the area – which will also account for the large numbers of Great Shearwaters. Some estimates on the ship put the number in excess of 3000.

LITTLE SHEARWATERS were observed at Lima (57°00'N 20°00'W) on September 1st and 2nd. Identified amongst the flocks of Great Shearwaters. Size appeared to be midway between Petrel and Manx Shearwater. More flapping of wings than other Shearwaters.

A BULWER'S PETREL was sighted at Juliet on the last day of 1974. Well north of its breeding area (Canary and Cape Verde Islands) it was seen skimming low over the wave tops. Characteristic wedge-shaped tail and dark plumage. Position 52°14'N 20°18'W. Wind South, force 5. Weather fair.

STORM-PETREL fell into the engine room of the "Weather Monitor" when that ship was off Rathlin Island on the night of 12th October 1974. Apparently unharmed, it was released after a brief examination and flew off into the night. (Possibly attracted by the ship's lights; see *Sea Swallow* Vol. 24.)

GREAT SKUA. On 19th April, at Station India, 19 of the 31 Great Skuas feeding around the ship were seen to have B.T.O.-type rings on their right legs. At least one had a yellow-coloured ring below the B.T.O. ring.

POMARINE SKUA. 17th July 1975. Lima. Chased and killed a Tern.

KITTIWAKES. There were several instances of oiled birds being reported at both India and Juliet – in February and April of this

year. One bird, with the oil mostly removed and only a dark stain remaining, was continually molested by others of the same species.

13th February Slightly oiled bird noted at India.

26th February One adult oiled on undersides. Juliet.

10th April 5 with underparts covered in oil; tried to preen during flight. Juliet.

18th April One bird badly oiled. India.

LITTLE AUK. 17th May. India. Observed landing on deck. Had great difficulty "walking" to the edge where it more or less dropped off. On hitting the water it swam away quite happily, diving as two Fulmars approached.

LANDBIRD SUMMARY

By Commander M. B. Casement, R.N.

The tables in this issue include a remarkable number of observations gleaned from the Meteorological Logs of Merchant Ships. Many of these are supported by detailed drawings and photographs and I am grateful to Mr J. D. W. Brown of the Meteorological Office for forwarding them regularly throughout the year. There is clearly a wealth of undiscovered talent in the Merchant Fleet as a whole and I hope more of them can be persuaded to support R.N.B.W.S. actively by becoming full members.

Records from the Ocean Weather Ships continue to trickle in but not in such numbers now the United Kingdom has reduced its commitment to man these Stations. The migration pattern revealed is similar to previous years but there is nothing to compare with the bumper harvest recorded at Juliet by C. I. Griffiths in October 1972. Incidentally, I should draw attention to the following correction to *Sea Swallow* 23:

On page 41 is recorded from Station Juliet (on 14 Oct. 72) a MARSH WARBLER (*Acrocephalus palustris*). This specimen has now been examined by the British Museum at Tring and shown to be a GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*). Dr P. J. K. Burton writes: "this is a bird of the year with the tail feathers part-way through post-juvenile moult giving the tail a deceptively rounded (i.e. *Acrocephalus*-like) shape".

Elsewhere in the world there is again a rash of records of various Heron and Egret species and various Owls, in particular Short-eared Owl, turn up in surprising places. These are noted regularly because they are large and conspicuous but I am sure there must be a wealth of smaller migrants which pass unobserved.

The "bulge of Africa" is as always a fruitful area for records of landbirds (Table B). The most unusual this year is the Short-billed Dowitcher recorded by Radio Officer Curtis of R.F.A. *Reliant* on 31 Aug. 74; this is thought to be the first record in this area of

this North American Wader but the detailed notes in his letter leaves little doubt. (Dr David Snow, M.B.O.U., of the British Museum, Tring, was also a passenger!)

In the Mediterranean, Lieutenant P. J. C. Morgan and Able Seaman Harty of *Ark Royal* record a highly interesting variety of migrants (Table E), including Orphean Warbler, Ortolan Bunting, Marmora's Warbler and Hawfinch which have not to my knowledge been recorded by R.N.B.W.S. members, or anyone else in this area before. It is clear from the weather maps accompanying the record forms that peak numbers were reached after a two-day spell of strong northerly winds which was followed by overcast conditions, rain and wind veering to 070°. This would have had the effect of forcing the birds low enough to see and be attracted by the lights of the ship.

I look forward to another pile of records in the coming year. It would be a great help to me in plotting them if members could record the nearest point of land in addition to Lat. and Long. I would also like to see more detailed descriptions given of all unusual birds, together with details of wind, weather and visibility.

Good bird-watching to all in the coming year.

M. B. C.

OCEAN WEATHER SHIPS – STATION REPORTS OF LANDBIRDS

Analysis by Commander M. B. Casement, R.N.

The following reports have been received during the period 1974/75 up to 1 October 1975.

STATION INDIA (Position 59°00'N 19°00'W – 300' S ICELAND)

1974	O.W.S.	Pages	Observer(s)
9–19 Apr	Not stated	1	R. B. Dyer, D. Ogle
1–15 Sept	Weather Adviser	3	P. Swan, B. Cooper, N. Marks, A. John
24 Sept–12 Oct	Weather Monitor	2	P. H. Hoare, J. H. Halls
7–28 Nov	Weather Surveyor	2	R. C. Aran
1975			
6 Feb–2 Mar	Weather Monitor	1	P. H. Hoare
7–24 April	Weather Surveyor	2	A. John, R. J. Burness
29 April–8 May	Not stated	1	R. B. Dyer, D. Ogle
16 May–7 June	Weather Monitor	2	P. H. Hoare, et al

STATION JULIET (Position 52°30'N 20°00'W – 350' W IRELAND)

1974	O.W.S.	Pages	Observer(s)
26–29 May, 10 Sept	Not stated		R. B. Dyer, D. Ogle
26 Sept–9 Oct	Weather Surveyor	2	E. D. MacDonald, M. Allwright
9–31 Oct	Weather Adviser	1	B. P. Cooper
1975			
14 May–8 June	Weather Surveyor	3	R. J. Burness

STATION LIMA (Position 57°00'N 20°00'W -
210' WSW ROCKALL, 450' S ICELAND)

1975

4-20 Aug

Not stated

R. B. Dyer, D. Ogle

Station Lima is a new station. Observations from Alpha have now been discontinued. Details are shown in the following tables for all observations recorded on station; records made on passage are included in Table A of the passage report analysis.

Abbreviations used in the tables:

Wind force expressed in Beaufort scale, or in knots where shown.

D - Died

S - Settled onboard (duration)

C - Circled: did not settle

X - Examined in the hand

BM - Corpse sent to British Museum

NR - Not recorded

Latin names are shown only for the first occasion in each table.

OCEAN STATION INDIA

1974

Date	Time arr GMT	Species	Wind, weather, vis	Remarks
April 9		Snow Bunting (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>)		Noted on "Sea Bird" returns, but without further details
11		Snow Bunting (2)		
12		Snow Bunting		
		Rock Pipit (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>)		
		Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)		
13		Snow Bunting		
14		Snow Bunting		
15		Snow Bunting		
16		Snow Bunting (2)		
17		Snow Bunting		
19		Greylag Goose		
Sept. 1	pm	White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	050/11 kt	Juv. S until dark
	1610	Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>)	030/10 kt	2. Flew S, calling
2	1000	Lapland Bunting (M) (<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>)	080/8 kt	S. N. Fed and released
5	am	Garden Warbler (<i>Sylvia borin</i>)	Light airs	Found dead. Probably arrived 1-2 Sept
6	0745	Purple Sandpiper (<i>Arenaria maritima</i>)	140/5 kt	2
	1845	White Wagtail	080/16 kt	C, with one "pipit"
	2000	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)	080/15 kt	2. C
7	0730	Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>)	060/18 kt	S
	1430	Dunlin	340/17 kt	S. 2½ hrs
8	1930	Wheatear	010/3 kt	C. Also one Phalarope Sp.
9	1500	Wheatear	180/23 kt	C
12	1715	Meadow Pipit	320/15 kt	S briefly
15	0730	Purple Sandpiper	270/5 kt	2. C
	1120	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	090/8 kt	F. S 3 hrs
	1600	Wheatear	150/20 kt	C

	18	0900	Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	170/27 kt	C
		1330	Whimbrel	170/36 kt	Flying S against strong wind
	19	1900	Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	290/13 kt	F. S 45 mins
	24	0800	Wheatear (2)	NNW/4-6 previous day	S 12 hrs
		1700	Greylag Geese (4)	good vis	Flying low SSE
	25	1930	Pipit Sp	NW/3-5 vis good	S. Brief glimpses
	26	1400	Duck Sp, prob Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i> ?)	NW/4-6 vis good	Brief glimpse
Oct	2	1100	Redwing (<i>Turdus iliacus</i>)	NW/3-4 vis good	C 1 hr
	10		Wheatear		Found dead
		1800	Spotted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	Light and variable.	S 30 mins
				vis good	
Nov	7	1025	Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	190/27 kt	Adult. S. Viewed from 18" but
				Vis 1nm in rain	could not be caught
	16	1120	Redwing	350/15 kt vis 10nm	S 4 hrs
	17		Redwing	140/16 kt 15nm	S until 18th, fed
	23		Short-eared Owl	190/21 kt 15nm	S

1975

Feb	10	0900	Dunlin	SE/3-4	In water. Attacked by Kittiwakes
	26	1530	Wheatear	SSE/5	S
April	7	0900	Redwing (8)	340/27 kt	S. 5 remained all day
			Snow Bunting		
			Common Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>)		
	14	1515	Greylag Goose	050/15 kt	Swam around ship 2 hrs. Dep W
	16	1100	Greylag (3)	120/14 kt	Dep N
	18	0725	Greylag (2)	090/17 kt	
	19		Redwing	350/10 kt	S
			Blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>) (F)		S. Caught, fed mealworms
			Meadow Pipit		S
			Starling (<i>Sternus vulgaris</i>)		S
	20	1600	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	120/7 kt	S. Caught, fed mealworms
May	16	1300	Wheatear	SSW/4	S 1 hr
	18	1800	Meadow Pipit	SSE/3	Flying past
	21	1500	Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	SE/4	Flying past

OCEAN STATION INDIA 1975 (continued)

Date	Time arr GMT	Species	Wind, weather, vis	Remarks
June	22	1000 Whimbrel	SE/4	Flying N
		1400 Swallow		S briefly
		1900 House Martin (<i>Delichon urbica</i>)	SE/4	S. Dep 0500/23rd. Returned 1700. dep later
	27	1530 Wheatear	E/3	S briefly
	28	2230 Dunlin	NNE/3-4	Flew past
	29	0800 Rock Pipit (2)	NE/3-4	S 12 hrs
		0900 Oyster Catcher (3) (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)		Flew past NW
		1000 Wheatear (3)		S. One died
	30	1415 Dunlin (8)	NE/2	Flying N. One S
		1430 Snow Bunting (M)		S until 9 June
		1830 Oyster Catcher	NNW/1	Flew past
	31	0800 Dunlin (2)	W/3	S until 1 June. Fed
		1200 Long-tailed Duck (2) (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>)	W/3	One M, one F
	June	1	1200 Wheatear	NW/6
		5	1030 Long-tailed Duck (4) ?	ESE/4
			1100 Oyster Catcher	E/5
		7	1500 Turtle Dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>)	SW/6
				S until 081800

OCEAN STATION JULIET

1974

Date	Time arr GMT	Species	Wind, weather, vis	Remarks
May	26	Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)		Note on "Sea Bird" returns but without further details
	27	Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)		
	29	Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>)		

Sept	15	1100	Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>) (4)	290/2kt vis good	3 F, 1 Juv.
	26	0800-1300	Wheatear (5)	N, Light var. Later increased to N gale am 27th	2 M, 3 F. Arr singly. S. Gone by 27th
Oct	4	0900	Wheatear (M)	350/14 kt 10nm	S all day
	9	1400	Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)		S 3 hrs; seen again at 1700
	9	1400	Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	080/5 kt 10nm	C
	12	0900	Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>)		C
	22	1300	Garden Warbler (<i>Sylvia borin</i>)	NR	Found dead
	25	1000	Starling (<i>Sternus vulgaris</i>)	NR	Flw past
	30	1500	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)	NR	C
	31	0900	Dunlin (3)	NR	C
			Garden Warbler	NR	S 15 mins

1975

Twenty-three	May	14	NR	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	050/25 kt	
		15	NR	Golden Plover	080/11 kt	Different individual
		17	NR	Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	210/6 kt	D. 2-3 days, picked out of sea
		20	NR	Swallow	120/19 kt	S until 21st
				House Martin (<i>Delichon urbica</i>)		
		22	NR	Swallow (2)	130/11 kt	S until 23rd
		24	NR	House Martin	140/17 kt	S until 26th
		25	NR	Swallow	100/5 kt	
		27	NR	Turtle Dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>)	090/10 kt	S until 10 June in Clyde. Fed lentils and barley
		29	NR	Dunlin	050/18 kt	Summer plumage
		30	NR	Dunlin	050/20 kt	Winter plumage
		31	NR	Dunlin	070/11 kt	Summer plumage. Caught and fed fish and meat. Released Scotland 10 June
	June	5	NR	Swallow	170/23 kt	Summer plumage
				Dunlin		Died overnight

OCEAN STATION LIMA

1975

The following observations were noted without further details on 'Sea Bird' returns submitted by R. B. Dyer and D. Ogle.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time arr</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Wind, weather, vis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Aug 4	NR	Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)		NR
6		Turnstone		
7		Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)		
8		Turnstone		
17		Ringed Plover		
18		White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)		
		Wheatear		
		White Wagtail		
		10 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)		
19		White Wagtail		
20		Chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>)		

SUMMARY OF LANDBIRDS EXAMINED IN THE HAND

1974/75

The following records of landbirds examined in the hand during the period (up to 1 October 75). Reference is made to them in the relevant analysis tables.

Key to abbreviations: S - Stayed onboard (duration) M - Male
 R - Released F - Female
 D - Died onboard (duration) Juv - Juvenile
 BM - Corpse sent to B.M. A - Adult
 P - Photographs taken nm - vis in nautical miles
 NR - Not recorded

1974

<i>Species (Sex)</i>	<i>Observer/Ship</i>	<i>Arrival date/time</i>	<i>Lat./ Long.</i>	<i>Sea area dist nearest land</i>	<i>Wind, weather, vis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Garden Warbler (<i>Sylvia borin</i>)	A. W. G. John & P. Swan OWS Adviser	1-4 Sept	50°00'N 19°00'W	S. Iceland 230' (Station India)	NR	Found dead
Chaffinch (F) (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>)	P. J. C. Morgan and P. Harty 'Ark Royal'	19 Oct	35°57'N 15°25'E	Med 50'W Malta	E 5kt Overcast good	D 1 hr. BM
Firecrest (Juv.) (<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>)	P. J. C. Morgan 'Ark Royal'	19 Oct	35°51'N 15°30'E	Med 55'W Malta	Light airs Overcast good	R
Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>)	P. J. C. Morgan 'Ark Royal'	21 Oct	35°52'N 15°48'E	Med 50'W Malta	W/30kt Rain shrs, good	D. BM
Hawfinch (<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>)	P. J. C. Morgan and P. Harty 'Ark Royal'	21 Oct	35°52'N 15°48'E	Med 50'W Malta	W/30kt	D. BM

Twenty-five

SUMMARY OF LANDBIRDS EXAMINED IN THE HAND 1974/75 (*continued*)

<i>Species (sex)</i>	<i>Observer/Ship</i>	<i>Arrival date/time</i>	<i>Lat./ Long.</i>	<i>Sea Area of nearest land</i>	<i>Wind, weather, vis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Little Egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	3rd Mate P. Coombs R.R.S. 'Shackleton'	14 Dec	2°00'N 24°55'W	S. Atlantic 300'E St Paul's Rocks	SE/2 3/8 good	D 3 days
Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	3rd Mate P. Coombs R.R.S. 'Shackleton'	23 Nov	9°15'N 15°16'W	E. Atlantic 80'W Freetown	Light airs S/8 good	R

1975

Tree Sparrow (<i>Passer montanus</i>)	Capt. P. W. G. Chilman S.S. 'Latia'	9 June	46°11'N 08°47'W	Iberlant 150' Spanish coast	NW6 Drizzle overcast	R
Turtle Dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>)	Capt. P. W. G. Chilman S.S. 'Latia'	10 June	44°22'N 10°11'W	Iberlant 83' Spanish coast	NW6 Mist ov'est	D 13th

SEA REPORT SHEETS

Analysis by Commander M. B. Casement, R.N.

The following reports of landbirds at sea were received during 1974,75 up to the period ending 1 October 1975.

1973

<i>Observer/Ship</i>	<i>Passage</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Sea Areas</i>
1. W. J. Jones, M.N. M.V. 'Cavendish'	Kuwait to Japan	30 Sept	A	Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean

1974

1. Lt. P. J. C. Morgan, R.N. A. B. Harty H.M.S. 'Ark Royal'	U.K. to Arctic	13-22 Sept	B	Channel, N. Sea, Norwegian Sea
2. Lt. P. J. C. Morgan, R.N. A. B. Harty H.M.S. 'Ark Royal'	Gibraltar to Malta	3-17 Oct	C	Mediterranean
3. Capt. T. J. Waldie, M.N. Miss B. J. Waldie M.V. 'Atlantic Bridge'	Japan to Rotterdam	9 Aug-23 Sept	D	W. Pacific, E. Atlantic (W. Africa)
4. Lt. P. J. C. Morgan, R.N. H.M.S. 'Ark Royal'	Malta areas	19-22 Oct	E	Mediterranean
5. Capt. P. W. G. Chilman, M.N. S.S. 'Megara'	Japan to Persian Gulf	22 April-21 May	F	N. Pacific, Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf
6. Capt. R. R. Will M.V. 'Rotherwick Castle'	Barcelona to Capetown	24 Oct	G	E. Atlantic (W. Africa)
7. Mr R. M. Curber M.V. 'Monte Ulia'	London-Vigo and return	6-16 Sept	H	E. Atlantic (W. Africa)
8. Ch. Officer W. C. W. Price, M.N. M.T. 'Satucket'	Tahiti to Panama	18 Jan	I	E. Pacific

SEA REPORT SHEETS (*continued*)

<i>Observer/Ship</i>	<i>Passage</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Sea Areas</i>
9. 3rd Mate P. Coombs, M.N. R.R.S. 'Shackleton'	Las Palmas to Freetown	15 Nov-26 Jan, '75	J	E. Atlantic (W. Africa)
10. Capt. P. W. G. Chilman, M.N. S.S. 'Megara'	Persian Gulf to U.K.	9-18 July	K	E. Atlantic (W. Africa)
11. Capt. J. I. Owen, M.N. S.S. 'City of Liverpool'	Liverpool to Persian Gulf	22-25 Oct	L	E. Atlantic (W. Africa)
12. Cdr. J. A. L. Myres, R.N. H.M.S. 'Hecla'	Off C. Verde Is	28 Aug-18 Sept	M	E. Atlantic (W. Africa)

1975

1. Capt. J. L. Owen, M.N. S.S. 'City of Liverpool'	Persian Gulf to U.K.	25 April-8 May	N	Persian Gulf and Red Sea
2. Capt. R. R. Will S.S. 'Rotherwick Castle'	Port Elizabeth to Hamburg	3 April	O	E. Atlantic (Iberlant)
3. T. Leighton M.V. 'Ocean Bridge'	Nordenham to Freetown	24-30 May	P	English Channel, E. Atlantic (W. Africa)
4. Mech. I. Deeney, R.N. H.M.S. 'Bacchante'	Portsmouth to Stavanger	15-19 April	Q	N. Sea, Norwegian Sea
5. Eng. Officer S. J. Hingston, M.N. M.V. 'Sugar Carrier'	New Orleans, U.S.A. to Emden	7 Feb-26 March	R	Atlantic, English Channel
6. Eng. Officer S. J. Hingston, M.N. M.V. 'Sugar Carrier'	Germany to Panama	18 April-7 May	T	W. Atlantic, Caribbean
7. Eng. Officer S. J. Hingston, M.N. M.V. 'Sugar Carrier'	Panama to Australia	12-27 July	T	Pacific
8. Capt. K. Salwegter, Neth. M.N. M.V. 'Waleheren'	Australia to S. Africa	24 March	U	Indian Ocean
9. Capt. K. Salwegter, Neth. M.N. M.V. 'Waleheren'	Durban to Alexandria	13-15 April	V	Mediterranean
10. 2/O. R. W. Joughin, M.N. S.S. 'Sailor Prince'	U.K. to Cyprus	19-27 July	W	Mediterranean

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS

This analysis includes records received from the following sources:

- a) R.N.B.W.S. Sea Report Sheets (Landbirds) – indicated by reference letter (see previous page, col. 4)
- b) Meteorological Log Returns (identifiable species only) – indicated by MET
- c) OWS reports on passage – indicated by OWS and name of ship

* The reference letter in column 2 of the tables at the date shown refers back to the observer's passage covering date.

Observations are analysed in the following tables by sea areas:

Table A	East and North Atlantic (East of 30°W including Biscay, Iberlant, and North of 51°N)
B	East Atlantic (West Africa) – Gibraltar to Cape of Good Hope
C	West Atlantic (West of 30°W)
D	North Sea, Norwegian Sea and English Channel
E	Mediterranean and Black Sea
F	Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Persian Gulf
G	Pacific and China Sea

TABLE A

EAST AND NORTH ATLANTIC

(BISCAY, IBERLANT - C .FINISTERRE TO GIBRALTAR, AND NORTH OF 51°N)

1974

<i>Date</i> <i>(local time)</i>	<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Species (Latin name)</i>	<i>Lat. & long. (nearest land)</i>	<i>Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.</i>
18 July 1615	K	Turtle Dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>)	46°57'N 07°15'W 100'SW Ushant	S 1 hr +. Light airs. Cloudy

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE A 1974 (continued)

Date (local time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Lat. & long. (nearest land)	Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.
29 Aug	OWS	Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	56°18'N 9°49'W	C once. Dep ESE 180/10kt.
1510	Adviser		80°3'W Barra Hd.	
1830		Wheatear (<i>O. oenanthe</i>)		S few mins
12 Oct	OWS	Redstart (F) (<i>Phoenicurus</i>	55°40'N 08°16'W	S 10 hrs. W/0-10 kt
0900	Monitor	<i>phoenicurus</i>)	20°NW Malin Hd	
22 Oct	L	Corn Bunting (<i>Emberiza calandra</i>)	46°00'N 8°15'W	S ½ hr
0745			25°N C. Ortegal	
3 Nov	MET	Tawny Owl (?) (<i>Strix aluco</i>)	40°15'N 11°08'W	M.V. <i>Stratulare</i> (P. & O., Capt.
			100 miles off Portugal	T. E. Kelso). Cired ship, perched briefly. Dep E

1975

15 Feb	R	Jack Snipe (<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>)	33°52'N 25°59'W 240'S Azores	S 2 hrs. Tired, nervous. Dep NE. Wind SSW/3. Good vis
--------	---	---	---------------------------------	--

TABLE B

EAST ATLANTIC (WEST AFRICA) - GIBRALTAR TO CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

1974

Date (local time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Lat. & long. (nearest land)	Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.
1 Feb	MET	Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	19°52'N 18°11'W	M.V. <i>Clan MacIndoe</i> (Clan Line,
1900Z			100'W Senegal	Capt. S. Hagan). Landed twice, dep W
22 April	MET	Not known (Wader Sp?)	33°13'N 11°30'W	M.V. <i>Longstone</i> (W. A. Souter &
0200Z			150'NW Casablanca	Co, Capt. T. Goldie). A noisy flock of c300 unknown birds approached from S and dep N

26 April 1800	MET	Turtle Dove (3) (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>)	34°30'N 13°13'W 250'NW Morocco	M.V. <i>Clan MacInnes</i> (Kayzer Irvine & Co, 3/O. C. R. Precious) Arr heavy rain. Dep 0900 to S
19 June 0730Z	MET	Lilac-breasted Roller (<i>Coracia cordata</i>)	15°09'N 18°24'S 50'W C. Verde	S.S. <i>British Destiny</i> (B.P. Tanker Co, Capt. R. H. Bell). S until 1800
9 July 1700	K	Swift Sp. (<i>Apus Sp.</i>)	26°55'N 15°43'W 49'S of Grand Canary	Flying into wind. NNE/7. Cloudy
27 Aug	MET	Hoopoe (<i>Upupa epops</i>)	19'N 17°50'W 50'W Mauretania	M.V. <i>Sugar Crystal</i> (Capt. D. Patrickson). S. Other land birds present
28 Aug	M	<i>flava</i> Wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)	8°47'N 23°06'W 380'S C. Verde Is	S
31 Aug 1510	R/Off, Curtis R.F.A. <i>Reliant</i>	Short-billed Dowitcher (<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>)	8°57'N 17°23'W 160'W Freetown	S few mins. Called. Detailed description
4 Sept 1100Z	MET	Hoopoe	13°26'N 18°06'W 80'W Bathurst	M.V. <i>Farsistan</i> (P. & O., Capt. M. Robinson, 2/O. J. P. Laycock). S one hour. Dep N
9 Sept 2000	H	Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>)	34°20'N 12°40'W 90'N Lanzarote Is (Canaries)	Flew past high and called
22 Sept 1330	D	Turtle Dove	08°14'N 16°00'W 26'W Freetown	S 3 hours. Wind NW/3
23 Sept 0600	D	Turtle Dove (20)	12°20'N 17°40'W 10'W Gambia	S. Nos. slowly reduced until 3 only at sunset. Wind NW/3, increasing
1100		Chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>)	13°34'W 17°45'N 10'W Gambia	S 6 hours
1745		Grey Heron	15°17'N 17°46'W 6'W Cape Verde	Circled 20 mins. S. Very tired. Remained till dark
24 Sept 1200Z	MET	Little Egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	20°12'N 17°38'W 60'SW C. Blanco	M.V. <i>Sherbro</i> (Capt. J. M. Johns- ton, 3/O. D. Baneroft). S. Dep E

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE B 1974 (continued)

Date (local time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Lat. & long. (nearest land)	Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.
23 Oct 1605Z	MET	Little Egret	04°50'N 29°25'W 240'N St Paul's Rocks	M.V. <i>Ronsard</i> (Capt. J. I. Jones and C/Off. A. Milligan, et al). S 2 days. Dep position 11°19'S 34°50'W collided into aerial and fell into sea. A vain attempt to hitehike from W. Africa to S. America
24 Oct 1600	G	Kestrel (2 F) (<i>Falco tinunculus</i>)	8°45'N 15°45'W 120'SW Guinea	S until dusk. Light airs
25 Oct	L	Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	15°00'N 17°30'W Off C. Verde	S. Wind NNE/3
1 Nov	MET	Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>)	7°N 15°W 120'SW Freetown	S.S. <i>Moreton Bay</i> (Container Fleets Ltd., Capt. M. R. Ryan and 3/O. C. C. Woodward). Four dead, one of a flock circling previous evening. Good sketch
1 Nov 0815Z	MET	Weaver Sp.(?) (identified as Greenfinch (<i>carduelis chloris</i>) but seems unlikely here. M.B.C.)	14°40'N 17°45'W Off C. Verde	M.V. <i>City of Montreal</i> (Ellerman. City Line, Capt. G. Salter, et al) S 10 mins
14 Nov pm	MET	Lanner Falcon (?) (<i>Falco biarnicus</i>)	19°15'S 11°3'E 50'SW C. Fria SW Africa	M.V. <i>Clan Menzies</i> . S 4 days, joined by another and both disappeared night of 18 Nov. Last seen, position 2°51'S 5°5'N 450' off Liberia
15 Nov	J	Red-rumped Swallow (<i>Hirundo daurica</i>)	11°51'N 17°07'W 50'SW Bathurst	S 45 mins. Wind N/3. Good vis
23 Nov	J	Nightjar Sp. (2) (<i>Caprimulgus Sp.</i>)	9°15'N 15°16'W 80'SW Senegal	S 6 hrs. Light airs. Vis v. good
4 Dec 1110Z	MET	Angola Kingfisher (<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>)	7°15'N 15°40'W 160 miles SW Freetown	M.V. <i>City of Newcastle</i> (Capt. I. G. Lumley). S few mins. Wind NNE/1-3. V. good vis

1 Dec 1400	J	Blackcap (2) (<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>)	7°01'N 15°47'W 170'SW Freetown	S 30 hrs+. Light airs. SE. Good vis
14 Dec	J	Little Egret (3)	0°42'N 24°25'W 700'WSW Freetown 300'E St Paul's Rocks	S. Died 17th. ESE/3. Good vis. N
15 Dec	MET	Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>)	7°12'N 14°18'W 100'SW Sierra Leone	M.V. <i>Trefusis</i> (P. & O., Capt. C. M. Gibbs)
22 Dec 1500	J	Nightjar Sp.	07°49'N 14°41'W 90°SW Freetown	S until dark. Light airs. Good vis

1975

26 Jan	J	Roller Sp. (prob. Racquet-tailed Roller (<i>Coracias spatulatus</i>)	05°14'N 11°20'W 70'SW Monrovia	S 5 hrs. Wind NNW/2. Excellent vis
29 May 1500	P	Hoopoe	26°00'N 16°30'W 20'W of West Africa	S short periods. Good vis
30 May 1800	P	House Martin (<i>Delichon urbica</i>)	19°00'N 17°36'W 12' off coast West Africa	Tired, feeding on insects. Good vis

TABLE C
WEST ATLANTIC (WEST OF 30°W)

1974

Date (local time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Lat. & long. (nearest land)	Remarks; wind, weather, vis, etc.
28 Aug	MET	Yellow Warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>)	31°25'N 58°20'W 330'ESE Bermuda	One picked up exhausted from sea which died 2 hrs later. Another flying round ship. M.V. <i>Sugar Refiner</i> (Capt. R. M. Pitts, 2/O. T. L. J. Evans)

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE C 1974 (continued)

Date (local time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Lat. & long. (nearest land)	Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.
17 Sept 1200Z	MET	Canary (<i>Serinus canaria</i>)	44°30'N 30°18'W 400'N Azores	S.S. <i>Manchester Zeal</i> (Capt. K. Rourke). S. Quite tame
18 Sept 2100Z	MET	Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	26°57'N 40°0'W Mid Atlantic 850'SW Azores	M.V. <i>Dumbaia</i> (Capt. J. R. Teare). 3 adults. 2 stayed 12 hrs. Dep WSW. One S 3 days. Dep Florida
21 Sept	MET	Bob White (?) (<i>Colinus virginianus</i>)	33°13'N 49°16'W Mid Atlantic 850'E Bermuda	M.V. <i>Dumbaia</i> . Stayed until 23rd. Dep NW

1975

10 April	MET	Numerous birds of several species of Finch and Sparrow type	27°13'N 09°35'W 45°N Grand Bahamas	M.V. <i>King Alfred</i> (Capt. F. G. King and 3/O. Lewis). Very weak, many died
21-22 Jan	MET	Starling (<i>Sternus vulgaris</i>)	300 miles Newfoundland est.	M.V. <i>Dart America</i> (Capt. A. F. Ashton and Ch/O. P. A. Brown). Wind W/6-8
		American Sparrowhawk (2) (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)		
		White Heron Sp. and many small Finch Sp. and Falcon Sp.		
7 Feb 0930	R	Yellowthroat (M) (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)	23°35'N 79°42'W 50'N Cuba	S 20 mins during rainstorm. Phot. Dep E. NW/2-3
12 April 1200	S	Green Heron (<i>Butoroides virescens</i>)	31°35'N 69°10'W 225'W Bermuda	S. Phot. Dep N. NW/2-3. Fine. Good vis
13 April 1400	S	Cape May Warbler (<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>)	26°23'N 72°40'W 150'NE Bahama Is	S. Phot. Dep NW. NE/4. Fine. Good vis
15 April	S	Peregrine Falcon (F) (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	15°04'N 76°54'W	S 1 hr+. Attacked Pomarine Skua. Dep N. Wind SW/3-4. Fine. Good vis

6 July	MET	Cattle Egret (5) (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>)	24°35'N 83°23'W 90°NW Cuba	S.S. <i>British Bombardier</i> (B.P. Tanker Co., Capt. W. V. Frost). S briefly
--------	-----	---	-------------------------------	---

TABLE D

NORTH SEA, NORWEGIAN SEA, ENGLISH CHANNEL

1974

<i>Date (local time)</i>	<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Species (Latin name)</i>	<i>Lat. & long. (nearest land)</i>	<i>Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.</i>
16 Aug 0745Z	MET	Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	68°48'N 13°54'E 10'N Lofoten Is	M.V. <i>Silvershaw</i> (Silver Line, Capt. D. Troup). S
0830Z	MET	Hawk Owl (?) (<i>Surnia ulula</i>)		S. Detailed sketch
10 Sept 0800Z	MET	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>)	63°30'N 20°40'E (Gulf of Bothnia)	S.S. <i>London Pioneer</i> (Capt. O'- Connor). Male. Exhausted
13 Sept pm	B	Sanderling (2) (<i>Calidris alba</i>)	58°30'N 01°53'W 35°E Scotland 35°SE Orkneys	S 1 hr. Wind SE/9 kt. Vis 1½ mls. Fog
"	"	Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>)	"	Adult, F. S 2 hrs
"	"	Pied Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>)	"	
14 Sept pm	"	Sanderling	58°15'N 01°30'W 20m N. Scotland	S. Rested on warm catapult tracks. Wind S/8 kt. Overcast
15 Sept 1530	"	Spotted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	58°59'N 04°13'W	S. Exhausted. Died. Wind SE/ 10 kt. Overcast
21 Sept pm	"	Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	63°22'N 06°18'E 35°W Norway (Trondheim)	S 5 mins. Wind 160/14 kt. Good vis
22 Sept pm	B	Turtle Dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>)	60°38'N 03°36'E 40m W. Norway (off Sognefjord)	S 5 mins. Wind SE/30 kt. Good vis. Rain showers. N.B.: Force 11 gales from SE 19 and 20 Sept with rain and poor vis

Thirty-six	ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE D 1974 (<i>continued</i>)				
	4 Nov pm	MET	Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	Off N. Holland	S.S. <i>Manchester Zeal</i> (Manchester Lines, Capt. K. Rourke). 2 or 3 at dusk, 50 by morning. Dep off Brixham to land
	6 Nov 0915Z	MET	Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	49°05'N 11°35'W 200'SW Ireland	S.S. <i>Manchester Zeal</i> (3/O. P. Doyle, et al). Circled 15 mins, landed briefly. Northerly gales over Britain and Ireland

1975

15 April	Q	Starling (6)	55°28'N 04°49'E 150'W Jutland	S. Fed bread and water
18 April	Q	Blackbird (F) (<i>Turdus merula</i>)	60°31'N 01°17'W 60'E Shetlands	Flew round ship. Dep E
19 April	Q	Woodcock (<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>)	66°17'N 02°15'E	Circled. Dep E
		Starling (5-6)	200'NNW Trondheim	
		Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>)		S briefly
		Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	67°37'N 03°37'E	S 15 mins
			250'NNW Trondheim	
25 May 1630	P	Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	49°08'N 04°23'W 6'NW Brittany	S 2 hrs. Fed scraps

TABLE E

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA

1974

<i>Date (local time)</i>	<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Species (Latin name)</i>	<i>Lat. & long. (nearest land)</i>	<i>Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.</i>
2 Sept	MET	Moorhen (?) (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>)	41°30'N 42°E Off Batumi (Georgia)	S.S. <i>Hadra</i> (Shell Tankers, Capt. D. Davis). Rescued exhausted from water and flew off recovered
3 Oct	C	Blackcap (10+) (M & F) (<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>) Redstart (12) (M & F) (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>) Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>) Blackbird (M) (<i>Turdus merula</i>) Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) Turtle Dove (3) (<i>S. turtur</i>) Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>) Numerous unidentified Passerines (50-60)	36°00'N 13°30'E 35m W Gozo	Wind E/6. V good vis, bc
17 Oct	C	Tree Sparrow (<i>Passer montanus</i>)	38°37'N 15°45'E	Died. Hit superstructure. Wind
1200			50'ESE Malta	NW/3
19 Oct	E	Chaffinch (F) (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>)	38°57'N 15°25'E	S. Caught. X
0900		Robin (10-15) Redstart (2 F) Swallow (2) Collared Flycatcher (M) (<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>) White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	40m E Malta	Dep SW Wind 070/10. Overcast. Showers. Good vis

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE E 1974 (continued)

Date (local time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Lat. & long. (nearest land)	Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.
19 Oct. (cont.) pm	E	Turtle Dove Woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) Swallow (4) Orphean Warbler (M) (<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>) Blackcap (10-12) Common Whitethroat (10-12) (<i>Sylvia communis</i>) Redstart (20-30) Robin (20-30) Firecrest (<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>) Spotted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>) Song Thrush Ortolan Bunting (M) (<i>Bmberiza hortulana</i>)	35°51'N 15°30'E 40'E Malta	
20 Oct	E	Numerous Passerines	35°57'N 15°40'E 40'E Malta	Fewer numbers but similar species to 19th
21 Oct am	E	Meadow Pipit Hawfinch (1) (<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>)	35°52'N 15°48'E 40'E Malta	Died. X. Sent to BM Found dead. X. BM
21 Oct	E	Robin Marmora's Warbler (<i>Sylvia sarda</i>)		Found dead. X. BM Very tired, caught and examined. Wind 290/30, cloudy. Showers. Good vis
22 Oct am	E	Swallow (50-60) House Martin (2) (<i>Delichon urbica</i>) White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	37°05'N 12°33'E SW Sicily 25m	Numerous groups of 5 or 6

pm	E	<i>flava</i> Wagtail Blackcap (20-30) Swallow (6) Blackcap Robin Golden Oriole (F) (<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>) Redstart (F) White Wagtail Song Thrush Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)			Numerous S few mins Quite tame 190/14. Good vis. Cloudy S.S. <i>Jervis Bay</i> (Capt. J. K. Blackburn. Container Fleets Ltd). S 1 1/4 hrs. Rain. Wind SE force 7/8
25 Oct 0930Z	MET		39°0'N 0°39'E		

1975

13 April 1700	V	House Martin	36°25'N 13°37'E	S 3 hrs. Wind var. Good vis
14 April 1600	V	Turtle Dove House Martin	35°NW Gozo 34°17'N 20°10'E 100°NW Libya	S 12 hrs S 2 hrs. NE/3. Good vis
15 April 1700	V	Swallow	32°16'N 26°26'E 30°N Libya	Flew past. NE/3. Good vis
19 July 1700	W	Common Whitethroat (F)	35°46'N 15°33'E 50°E Malta	Arr NW, S 1 hr
27 July 1000	W	Common Whitethroat	35°42'N 17°15'E 120°E Malta	S. NW/4

TABLE F INDIAN OCEAN, RED SEA AND PERSIAN GULF

1973

<i>Date (local time)</i>	<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Species (Latin name)</i>	<i>Lat. & long. (nearest land)</i>	<i>Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.</i>
30 Sept	A	Hoopoe (<i>Upupa upops</i>)	16°59'N 69°03'E 250m SW Bombay	S. Wind NW/2. Vis poor. Rain
		Black Ibis Sp. (?) Unidentified Wader (4)		S. Died a week later. Sent to BM

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE F 1973 (continued)

Date (local time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Lat. & long. (nearest land)	Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.
13 Nov 1200Z	A	Unidentified Owl	17°01'N 69°04'E 250'SW Bombay	18–20" long, wingspan 3' 5"– 4' 0", long tail. S 10 mins. Dep N. Wind NE/2 S 2 hrs. Arr NE. Dep NNW
		Night Heron Sp. (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>), juv (?)		

1974

31 Aug 0900Z		Purple Heron (?) (<i>Ardea purpurca</i>)	05°2'N 51°42'E 180m E coast of Somaliland	M.V. <i>Gambada</i> (P. & O., 2/O. P. S. Holloway)
12 Sept 2000Z	MET	Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	1°18'N 59°15'E 900m SE Socotra	M.V. <i>Kohinur</i> (P. & O., Capt. R. O. Cunningham)
19 Sept 1400Z		Wood Ibis (?) (<i>Ibis ibis</i>)	80m SE Aden	S.S. <i>British Guardsman</i> (B.P. Tanker Co. Capt. D. Corp). S 6 hrs
7 Oct 0530Z	MET	Hoopoe	25°25'N 51°58'E Off Ummsaid	S.S. <i>British Destiny</i> (B.P. Tanker Co. Capt. W. B. Frost)
11 Oct		Osprey (2) (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	14°N 57°18'E 350'E NE Socotra 360'SE Oman	S.S. <i>British Guardsman</i> (B.P. Tanker Co. Capt. D. Corp)
		Nightjar Sp. (<i>Caprimulgus Europaeus</i> or <i>Aegyptius</i>)		An interesting variety of birds on migration, resting onboard
		Blue-Checked Bee-eater (<i>Merops superciliosus</i>)		
		Great White Egret (<i>Egretta alba</i>)		
		European Roller (2) (<i>Coracias garrulus</i>)		
18 Oct		European Roller	14°45'N 54°55'E 150m NNE Socotra	M.V. <i>Tairea</i> (P. & O. Captain W. G. Howcroft, 2/O. C. F. Balaporia, et al.) S 4 hrs

28 Nov	MET	Falcon Sp. Kestrel (?)	40m SW Socotra	S.S. <i>Esso Caledonia</i> (Capt. J. M. Phillips). S 2 days. Fed on raw meat. Attempted to catch Wag-tail. Left ship 3°N 50°E
--------	-----	------------------------	----------------	---

1975

1 Jan 0300Z	MET	Swift Sp.	15°28'S 40°56'E 20m E. Africa	S.S. <i>Opalia</i> (Shell Tankers). 50-60 apparently feeding about 200 ft above sea level. Flock slowly dispersed; all gone by 0400
20 Jan		Ceylon Black Crow (<i>Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus</i>)	Colombo to Mombasa	M.V. <i>Ernebank</i> (Bank Line Ltd. Capt. A. B. Osborne). 21 crows on leaving Colombo dwindled to 5 after 2 days, which remained until after arrival Mombasa Jan 27
6 March 1330Z	MET	Yellow-Billed Egret (3) (<i>Egretta intermedia</i>)	39°36'S 26°49'E	S.S. <i>Flinders Bay</i> (Capt. R. A. Wilson). S. 2 flew off, 1 S 1 hr
25 April 1400-1700	N	Red-Backed Shrike (M) (<i>Lanius collurio</i>)	25°17'N 52°22'E 80'E Qatar at anchor	Settled on tip of fishing rod
8 May 1100	N	Squacco Heron (<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>)	14°30'N 42°00'E S. Red Sea	Circled ship. Wind SE/3
14 Aug 1330Z	MET	Rose-coloured Starling (<i>Sternus roseus</i>)	22°20'N 61°30'E 100'E Muscat	M.V. <i>British Avon</i> (B.P. Tankers. Ch/O. D. McCallum). S 10 mins

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS (continued)

TABLE G
PACIFIC, CHINA SEA

1970

Date (local time)	Ref.	Species (Latin name)	Lat. & long. (nearest land)	Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.
18 Nov 1330Z	MET	Cattle Egret (<i>Ardeola ibis</i>)	3°50'N 90°10'W	M.V. <i>Adelaide Star</i> (Capt. G. Ferriday). Two adult, 6 Juv
		Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	240'N of Galapagos Gp.	Caught and ate Sooty Tern. All remained until arrival Panama

1974

18 Jan 0800	I	Purple Gallinule (<i>Porphyryla martinica</i>)	01°28'S 106°28'W	S 2 hrs. Wind SSE/3. Good vis
29 April 1630	F	Swallow	900'W Galapagos Is	S
		Greater Sand Plover (<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>)	24°37'N 127°03'E	S. Wind NNE/5, bc
30 April 0600-0820	F	Swallow (3)	200°S tip of Okinawa	S 10 mins. Arr S. Dep N. Light airs
1310-1800	F	Cattle Egret	083°S tip Formosa	
	F	Curlew/Whimbrel	228m	Flock of c.50 heading N. Too far for positive identification
	F	Asian Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>)	21°14'N 124°12'E	S
1 May 0615-0830	F	Swallow (6)	095° Formosa 188m	
		Greater Sand Plover	19°38'N 120°58'E	S. Light airs, bc.
		White-Collared Kingfisher (<i>Halcyon chloris humii</i>)	917° Luzon 70m	S 30 mins

2 May 1115		<i>flava</i> Wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)	15°18'N 116°05'E 279° Manila 291m	S 2 mins. Dark cap. Wind S/4 bc
3 May 1605		Red-Rumped Swallow (2) (<i>Hirundo daurica</i>)	10°32'N 111°26'E 093° Saigor 280m 340° Spratly Is 116m	C few mins. Wind SSW/3 bc
6 May 1000		Swift Sp.	02°49'N 101°10'E 229° Port Swettenham 18m	Flying NW. Light airs. C
1200		House Swift (?) (<i>Apus affinis</i> (?)) Swift Sp. (21)		Flying steadily NW at c. 300 ft. Est. speed 18–20 kt
8 May 1640		Rose-coloured Starling (<i>Sternus roseus</i>)	06°05'N 88°53'E 425m E. Ceylon	S. Arr from W. Wind SW/2 bc
9 May 1100		<i>flava</i> Wagtail	06°00'N 85°09'E	C. Wind SW/4. Overcast
15 May		Swallow	102° Ceylon 203m 23°39'N 58°38'E 3m NE Muscat	W/2 b
18 May 1100		Red-breasted Flycatcher (F) (<i>Ficedula parva</i>)	26°50'N 53°41'E 80m NW Trucial Coast	S. Catching insects. A possible male also seen. Light airs, b
19 May 1620–1800		Warbler (5) (Prob. Sedge-Warbler)	25°40'N 52°28'E 3m at anchor off Hallul	Skulking onboard catching moths. NW/4 bc
		Prob. Olivaceous Warbler 3 unknown		
20 May am	F	Spotted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	..	S
pm		Pallid Swift (2) (<i>Apus pallidus</i>)		C ship. Light airs, b
21 May am	F	Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>) Red-backed Shrike (M) (Eastern race) (<i>Lanius collurio phoenicurooidus</i>)		Still onboard at 1900. Caught and ate at least one small bird. Light airs, b
19 Sept 1200Z	MET	Swallow	03°59'S 81°20'E 600'NE Chagos 600'S Sri Lanka and 1000m W Sumatra	M.V. <i>Antilochus</i> (Ocean Trading & Transport. Capt. A. J. Palmer). 2 arr onboard. Wind var/1–2. Cloudy. Overcast with rain previous night. 1 bird dis- appeared; the other remained till Sumatra

ANALYSIS BY SEA AREAS—TABLE G 1974 (*continued*)

<i>Date (local time)</i>	<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Species (Latin name)</i>	<i>Lat. & long. (nearest land)</i>	<i>Remarks: wind, weather, vis, etc.</i>
6 Oct 0915Z	MET	House Martin	23°34'N 125°48'E 250m E Taiwan	S.S. <i>Norman Lady</i> (Buries Marques Ltd. Capt. A. Valentine). C 50, flying round. Very tired
12 Oct 0300	MET	Collared Dove (?) (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)	12°N 113°E 800m SW of Tropical storm 'Bess' 300m NW Talawan Is	M.V. <i>Antiochus</i> . Numerous large and medium dragonflies, moths and small green insects
		Kingfisher Sp. Heron Sp. Harrier Sp. (2)		
9 Nov	MET	Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	390m WSW Midway Island	M.V. <i>Manchester Concept</i> (Capt. K. Lehepau). S 4-5 hrs

1975

25 March 2300	MET	Pacific Swallow (3) (<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>)	25°N 134°E 600+ S. Japan	M.V. <i>Manchester Concept</i> (Man. Lines. Capt. D. Gregson). Ini- tially 3, 8 more later
18 April 1200	T	Barn Swallow (2)	5°39'N 82°10'W 120'SW Panama	S. Flew occasionally. One found dead next day. NE/2. Fine. Good vis
7 May 1600	T	Pacific Swallow	26°38'S 162°E 360'SW New Caledonia	S. Dep NW. ESE/4-5. Fine. Good vis

SOME EXTRACTS FROM METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS 1974/75

From notes received and selected by
Captain N. B. J. Stapleton, R.D.

(Note by Editor: The interest aroused by the inclusion of a section in ships' meteorological log returns to provide for details of birds observed at sea has been remarkable. The enclosed examples out of many reports have been selected not only to indicate the great difficulty in species identification on occasions, but also to expose their habits and the great concern and attention shown by all hands onboard in caring for birds in distress.)

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL IN THE NORTH PACIFIC

Captain O. Tucker, S.S. *Ben Cruachan*, on passage from Kobe towards Balboa records that on 15th August 1974, in position 39°10'N 178°42'W, a Storm-petrel first thought to be Hornby's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma hornbyi*, was found huddled on the poop deck. The bird was very tame.

As the position given appeared to make this species very unlikely, photographs of different Storm-petrels were sent to Captain Tucker by R.N.B.W.S. from which subsequently he identified the bird as a White-faced Storm-petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*. The bird was placed in a cardboard carton for the night, and appearing in good health next morning was released and flew off.

On the same voyage a Leach's Storm-petrel was found on the poop deck under similar circumstances, cared for overnight and allowed to fly off next day.

(Note: In the Southwest Pacific, White-faced Storm-petrels breed off the west coasts of Australia, off Tasmania and outlying islands off New Zealand. They are understood to migrate northwards after their breeding season about April, possibly across the Equator although their presence in this area of the Pacific has not been reported to R.N.B.W.S. before.)

BROWN BOOBIES

Captain J. S. Laidlaw, M.V. *Wild Avocet*, on passage from Balboa towards Tokyo on 26th February 1974, in position 12°36'N, 100°42'W, sighted 2 or 3 Brown Boobies, *Sula leucogaster*, around his ship catching Flying Fish. During the day numbers increased to 18, some settling onboard. During the evening all the birds, 36 counted, settled on the rigging remaining there quietly overnight. For the next 6 days the birds continued to sit tight at night until Sunday, 3rd March when the ship was passing Oahu Island (Hawaii)

when, as the sun broke, they all left and flew off together but did not appear to close the island. The birds had travelled about 2,900 miles onboard.

SOOTY TERNS

Captain D. M. Belk, M.V. *Phemius*, on passage from Balboa towards Brisbane, on the morning of 29th March 1974, in position 04°33'S, 118°49'W, found 5 Sooty Terns, *Sterna fuscata*, on deck utterly exhausted, lying soaked and helpless after a heavy down-pour of rain. The Radio Officer and his wife took two of the birds, the 4th Engineer the remaining 3. All the birds were in such a weak state they had to be dried and fed before we could study them. A few hours after being dried they appeared more lively and could be photographed, but unfortunately 4 of the birds died next day, one survivor only flying away.

GREAT SHEARWATERS, SOOTY SHEARWATERS AND SKUAS (SP.)

Captain G. Howe, R.R.S. *Discovery*, on passage from Barry towards North Biscay on 8th October 1974, between positions 48°03'N, 9°18'W and 48°24'N, 9°28'W, reported sighting very large flocks of Great Shearwaters, *Puffinus gravis*, estimates varying between 700-800 by the end of the day. The majority spent most of the time settled on the water never far from the ship. There were also a few Sooty Shearwaters, *Puffinus griseus*, amongst them, together with an occasional Skua (species not described).

BROWN-WINGED OR BRIDLED TERN

Captain R. M. Simpsin, M.V. *Cyclops*, on passage from Penang towards Durban on 5th December 1974, in position 12°59'S, 68°08'E, found a Brown-Winged or Bridled Tern, *Sterna anaethetus*, on the boatdeck dazed and exhausted having apparently collided with the superstructure and unable to stand. After spending a night in a cardboard box it showed no improvement and lay on the bridge deck without moving for 6 hours. As it was so weak it was fed on a glucose and water solution as recommended in the "Marine Observer", January 1971. This had an immediate effect and in the morning it began preening itself and stretching its wings, and shortly afterwards took off flying strongly to join a flock of similar birds.

RED-BILLED TROPIC-BIRD

Captain F. Smith, M.V. *City of Auckland*, on passage from Capetown to Cardiff on 8th July 1975, in position 17°05'N, 18°26'W, found a Red-billed Tropic-bird, *Phaethon aethereus*, in the hatch stowage space on No. 4 hatch, apparently uninjured. The bird took some water and a small amount of fish. The next day it appeared disinterested and slept most of the time but continued to

take water but no food. However, on 10th July at some time during the night the bird had died, cause of death unknown but probably due to some internal injury.

(Note: The bird probably struck some part of the superstructure while following the ship at night, a habit of Tropicbirds. This species breeds on the Cape Verde Islands. An excellent description of its plumage accompanied the report.)

GREAT AND CORY'S SHEARWATERS

Captain O. Conner, S.S. *London Pioneer*, on passage from Lulea (Sweden) to Wilmington (North Carolina) on 19th September 1974, in position 46°36'N, 41°25'W, observed a flock of about 25 seabirds identified as Great Shearwaters, *Puffinus gravis*, accompanying his ship for about 4 hours in a force 8 gale. Several of the birds however, had pale yellow bills.

(Note: This is interesting, as those with yellow bills quoted would be Cory's Shearwaters, *Calonectris diomedea*, and we have seen evidence that at least some Cory's Shearwaters disperse towards the Virginian and Carolina coasts of North America in the autumn.)

DOUBTS OR CERTAINTIES

(Note by Editor: Even experienced observers may find themselves in doubt as to identification when faced with new situations. From their reports R.N.B.W.S. can suggest only possible solutions in certain cases. An example is given from a voyage from Capetown to Sydney.)

1. 14th August 1975 at 36°52'S, 69°43'E. South Indian Ocean. Amsterdam Is. lay 350 miles ahead, Crozet or Kerguelen Is. about 800 miles to the south. A small Duck flew onboard. It made a low quacking noise. From the description given as 14 ins. (360 cm) in length, also showing a white edge on its wings in flight, the nearest identification could possibly have been a Hottentot Teal?, *Anas hottentotta*. This is the smallest Duck in Southern Africa which shows a white edge to its speculum in flight, but the identity so far from land could only be speculative.

2. 20th August 1975 at 40°52'S, 130°47'E. An all-white species, reported a ? Albino, was seen with Black-browed Albatrosses. It was not a "Snowie" Albatross and looked about the same size as a Black-browed Albatross. It seems that this may have been the less usual all-white Giant Petrel of the southern species, *Macronectes giganteus*, of which there are two plumages:

- (a) All white. These may be juveniles or adults, the white features being acquired at the nest, the birds remaining white for life. A few are wholly white, but most show a few black spots. Younger all-white birds may have ivory-horne bills.

(b) Dark species, i.e., the majority, blackish-brown or greyish according to age, the younger birds being dark brown.

(Note: The originator has since confirmed that the ? Albino species was indeed a Giant Petrel, white phase.)

SHORT NOTES



Mrs Lois Owen feeding oiled Leach's Storm-petrel with pipette onboard M.S. *City of Liverpool*, South Atlantic, 20th Jan, 1975

PETREL AND PILCHARD OIL

From Captain J. I. Owen, R.N.B.W.S.,
Master, M.S. *City of Liverpool*

At 0800 hrs. when in position $15^{\circ}25'S$, $01^{\circ}45'E$ on 20th January 1975 a small bird, subsequently identified as a Leach's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, was reported lying on the boat deck. It was uninjured but had oil on its body, tail and wing-tips. Following the procedure suggested by R.N.B.W.S., to which I belong, the bird was wrapped up, to prevent it attempting to preen and so swallow oil, and put in a box in a warm place to rest. Storm-petrels feed on plankton and other small marine life so fish-feeding was useless and the suggested cod liver oil was not available. The Catering Officer, however, provided a tin of natural pilchards and an "eye dropper". The bird took the oil from the

pilechards at once and opened its bill wide to receive the "eye dropper" with the oil immediately from my wife. A second feed in mid-morning was followed by a bowl of water that was at once sampled, fresh water being preferred and salt water ignored.

The oil on the feathers was washed off after lunch using a solution of warm washing-up liquid at about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pint to 1 gallon of water at about 105°F as recommended by Captain Tuck, followed by thorough rinsings, the drenched bird being dried finally by my wife's hairdrier. Two further feeds followed and the bird spent the night quietly in its box beneath the hot towel rail in the bathroom.

At 0730 next day it was fed again, flapping its wings strongly while standing on my hand. It lifted easily flying strongly in the direction of St Helena having spent two days onboard and travelled 480 miles.

(Note by Editor: Another example received from a source outside R.N.B.W.S. - H.M.S. *Tiger*, at sea. No position or ring numbers given. An oil-covered homing pigeon struggled onboard. Chief Petty Officer Crotty, a Shipwright, whose father is a keen pigeon fancier, took charge at once. Quote: "We cleaned the pigeon with 'bilge-cleaning detergent'! and my only fear before it flew off the ship as we neared Portsmouth was that it hadn't got its natural oils back. However, it got home safely to Rossendale in Lancashire to the owner's delight.")

No sooner had this mission been achieved than another exhausted pigeon landed onboard. Quote by Crotty reaching for the bilge-cleaning detergent once more: "It could be Dutch or a Dutch bird sold to an English buyer, but it is obviously valuable".)

FEEDING HABITS OF SOOTY TERNS IN COMPACT FLOCKS

Note from log of R. A. Hart, Esq.

13th December 1973. 10°N, 58°W. While sailing round the world we passed a number of "pods" of jumping fish of about 50-60 feet in diameter and 100-200 yards apart. Flocks of hundreds of Sooty Terns, *Sterna fuscata*, were hovering in groups in compact flocks close to our yacht. Each bird tried to keep constant position with its adjacent bird in its flock so that those diving at an angle to catch fry had to do so from the nearest edge of the flock. After making a catch each Tern would rejoin its own flock. The groups were in 3 figures for each circling flock.

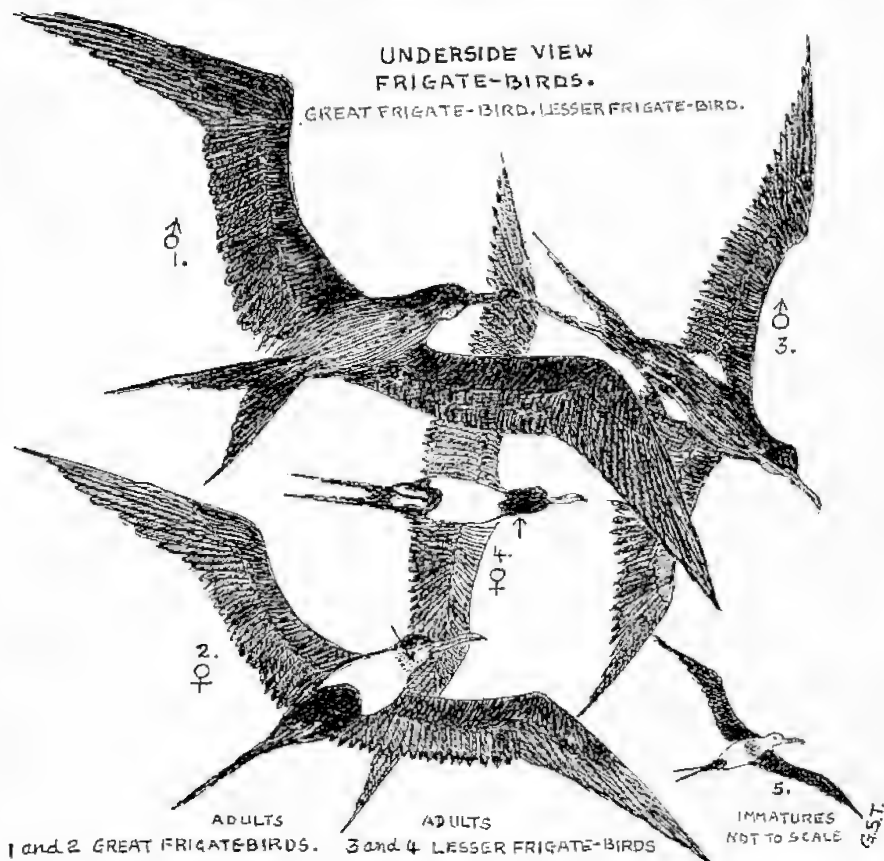
Small numbers of Magnificent Frigate-birds, *Fregata magnificens*, were soaring above the Terns, occasionally swooping on one carrying its catch to worry it until it gave up its fish.

Earlier, just south of Ascension Island, a Sooty Tern came to settle on the stern of our yacht on 2 consecutive nights shortly after dark and remained for 8 hours in spite of voices by the crew and photo flashes. It departed at sunrise. The same thing happened nearly 100 miles away the next night.

RECOGNITION BETWEEN GREAT AND LESSER FRIGATE-BIRDS

(by Editor: Sketch refers)

In areas where both Great Frigate-birds, *Fregata minor*, and Lesser Frigate-birds, *Fregata ariel*, are both likely to occur, confusion may arise in differentiating between them. At sea they are viewed normally from the underside and the sketch and notes aim



to show the different black and white plumage patterns of each adult species. The white plumage of juveniles is almost identical in both species.

Lieutenant M. K. Barritt, R.N., who has made a study of Lesser Frigate-birds seen at sea in the southeast Asian, Indonesian and southwest Pacific areas, where they predominate, remarks that immature birds may be distinctive by black upper breast bands. In intermediate plumage the throat and neck and finally the head gain dark plumage, while in the male birds the white underbody diminishes at a stage where the white adult patches are still joined across the abdomen.

NEWS FROM MASIRAH ISLAND, OMAN

C. I. Griffiths and T. D. Rogers, Meteorologists, recently our observers in British Ocean Weather Ships, are now stationed on Masirah Island for 2 years and have been compiling a list of birds breeding, visiting or passage migrants over the period. They have published an interim report covering 218 species with full details of their occurrence and overall seasonal dates and expect to extend this to include small outlying islets. In due course the present list will be superseded by a list of birds of Eastern Arabia edited by Major M. D. Gallagher. 50 copies of the list which may be of interest to members visiting the Persian Gulf, have been prepared. For further information write to C. I. Griffiths, c/o Meteorological Office, Royal Air Force, Masirah, B.F.P.O. 65.

BOOBIES RIDE ON THE BACKS OF TURTLES AND A SNOWY EGRET SURVIVES ONBOARD

From Able Seaman J. Booth, M.N., R.N.B.W.S.,
M.V. Ravensworth

When in position 16°35'N, 100°18'W, about 80 miles off the coast of Salvador, when on passage from Panama to San Francisco between 3rd and 7th September 1975, about 500 Green Turtles were seen swimming on the surface while Red-footed Boobies, *Sula sula*, flew around. About 10 to 12 Boobies were seen to be riding on the backs of the Turtles.

*

Later on *Monday 20th October* on passage across the Atlantic in position 4°39'S, 30°44'W, 120 miles from Fernando de Noronha Island, a Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*, apparently "all in" landed in the sea but rose finally and crashed onboard. No one, however, could recover it. By *Wednesday 22nd*, with seas breaking over the ship, it was washed into the scuppers, was caught by Booth and

appeared to be dying. However, Booth took charge and started to force-feed it in his cabin every hour with fish roe, some mince, bits of liver and crushed shrimps which it disgorged every time. *Thursday 23rd.* The bird could not stand and kept falling asleep but force-feeding with shrimps and water continued hourly. *Friday 24th.* Condition improved: bird "wobbled" to its feet. *Saturday 25th.* Started to preen feathers: becoming quite tame. *Sunday 26th.* Still unable to fly, but now coming to Booth to be fed on his desk. By the following *Wednesday, 29th*, it had adopted Booth completely and it was taken along the length of the deck on Booth's arm, ate some kidney, by now its favourite food, and took off finally flying towards Tenerife in the Canary Is., 40 miles away, after 9 days onboard while the ship crossed the Atlantic.

NEW MEMBERS - 1975

TOTAL (to date) - 31

Eley, J. T., Esq., 1 Broomfield Close, Timsbury, nr. Bath, BA3 1LP
 Jones, P. H., Lt. R.N., 2 Enfield Road, Evercreech, Mallet, Somerset, BA4 6L

Finney, A. J., Catering Officer, 9 Aldsworth Close, Fairford, Gloucestershire

Disley, H. R., Esq., Beecherof, 12 Courtenay Road, Liverpool, L25 4RL

Ames, A. G. E., Esq., M.B.E., 2 Glenowen, Landsdown Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Collop, A. C., Captain M.N., The Puffins, 746 St John's Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO16 8BN

Welch, J. W., 1st Officer Navigating, Wychwood, 65 Park Road, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon., OX8 65B

Cooper, D. J., 3rd Officer M.N., 35 Treevale Road, Rochester, Kent

Murison, W. A., Captain M.N., 21 Witney Close, Saltford, Bristol

Fillingham, J. P., Captain M.N., 18 Marks Way, Pensby, Wirral, Cheshire, L61 2PB

Brown, D. G., Captain M.N., The Felthams, Wellow, nr. Yarmouth, Isle of Wight

Joern, D., Meteorologist, 23 Kiel 17, Dieselweg 2, Federal German Republic

Hall, J. J., Chief Officer M.N., 3 Curlew Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks

Plummer, J. D., Lt. R.N., 21 Fairfield Road, Barton-on-Sea, New Milton, Hants., BH25 7NJ

Bull, D. A., R. Mech. R.N., 34 Ambleside Avenue, Redcar, Cleveland

Anderson, G. A., Captain M.N., An Cala, 7 Friarsfield Road, Lanark, ML11 9EN

Leighton, T., Cadet M.N., 28 Hermitage Road, Sanchall, Chester, CH1 6BE

Finn, M. G., Radio Officer M.N., 5 Roebuck Road, Dundrum,
 Dublin 14, Eire
 Hall, K. S. D., 2nd Officer M.N., 207 London Road, Bishops Stort-
 ford, Herts., CM23 35Y
 Brotherton, A. E., Lt.-Commander R.N., 3 Ellachie Road, Gosport,
 Hants.
 Short, R. E., Jnr. 2nd Engineer M.N., 9 Cheviot Way, East Rees
 Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8RF
 Swan, P. W. H., Lt. R.N., c/o Dagwood, Limers Lane, Northam,
 Bideford, N. Devon
 Thomson, G., Petty Officer M.N., c/o Mr Dickson, 55 Simpson
 Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife
 Bingeman, J. M., Commander R.N., The Pines, 659 London Road,
 Ditton, Maidstone, Kent, ME20 6DJ
 Weitkowitz, W., Radio Officer, 2000 Hamburg II, Rekhoff Str,
 No. 1, Federal German Republic
 McKenzie, D. A., Chief Officer M.N., 87A Brucefield Avenue, Dun-
 fermline, Fife
 Robinson, S. J., 2nd Engineer M.N., 2 Long Meadow, Bury St
 Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3LD
 Gray, J. D., Chief Officer M.N., 11 Meaburn Close, Bessacarr,
 Doncaster, S. Yorkshire
 Preston, D. S., R.E.M.N.3, R.N., 114 Thirlmere Gardens, Loose-
 leigh Lane, Crownhill, Plymouth, Devon
 Clipson, N., Cook M.N., 22 Tofts Road, Barton-on-Humber, South
 Humberside, Lincolnshire, DN18 5NG
 Prest, M. T., Captain R.N., 34 Shrewsbury House, Cheyne Walk,
 London, S.E.3

NEW HONORARY MEMBER

Commander L. B. Philpott, who has recently retired, has been
 elected an HONORARY MEMBER for his valuable work on behalf of
 R.N.B.W.S. in stimulating interest in birdwatching and reporting
 birds at sea in the Merchant Navy. He was responsible amongst
 other matters for initiating a special section in ships' meteorological
 returns to be devoted to the observation of birds at sea. He has
 been succeeded by Mr J. D. Brown.

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP - 1975

TOTAL 1

H. Neth, M.S. *Overijssel*. (Replaces H. Neth, M.S. *Blommendal*.)

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - 1975

TOTAL 2

Johnstone, Dr Gavin W., c/o Antarctic Division (Dept. of Science),
 568 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia
 Copleston, Mrs Anthea, Flat 3, 9 Sunnyside, Liverpool, L8 3TD

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY AT 1/11/75

Ex-Officers	7
Hon. Members	12
Life Members (original)	40
Life Members	12
Ordinary Members	252
Corporate Members	16

Totals 323 + 16 Corporate Members = 339. In addition 72 Associate Members

OBITUARY (June 1974)

Captain F. R. Main, R.N., (Member since 1947.)

Mr I. G. Hall, M.N. (1st June 1975). (Member since 1970.)

R.N.B.W.S. REPRESENTATIVES OVERSEAS

See Vol. 24 - 1973/74 with following corrigenda:

HONG KONG

Hon. Secretary: C. R. Payne, c/o Chartered Bank of Hong Kong,
P.O. Box 21, Hong Kong

Chairman: Mr F. O. P. Hechtel, Aigburth Hall, 9 May Road,
Hong Kong

NEW ZEALAND

Dr F. C. Kinsky

SOUTH AFRICA

Omit J. M. Winterbottom; substitute "The Director".

Addition to those receiving *Sea Swallow* on exchange basis:

The Pacific Seabird Group, (Secretary: G. J. Divoky), 1412
Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK99701, U.S.A.

WATCHING SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH NOVEMBER 1974

£	£	£	£
381.45	Production of <i>Sea Swallow</i> Vol. 23 (620 copies)		537.68
	Printing		
	— Headed Sheets (1000)	7.90	
7.50	Sea Report Sheets (500)	6.00	
2.00	Audited Statement 1973	2.70	
24.55	Bulletins (86-89)	20.50	
34.05			37.10
5.75	Expenses of A.G.M.		9.55
62.72	Postage and Stationery		87.58
	Subscriptions		
2.50	B.T.O.	3.50	
5.00	I.C.B.P. (British Section)	5.00	
7.50			8.50
2.00	Bank Charges		2.00
	Balance 30th November 1974		
235 35	Current Account	228.63	
202.07	Deposit Account	220.82	
437.42			449.45
(1) A claim for relief of Income Tax amounting to £32.84 and for £7.99 Transitional Tax relief re members' covenants, donations and subscriptions for year ending 5th April 1974 is at present in the hands of the Inland Revenue.			
(2) In addition to cash in the bank, the assets of the Society include:			
(a) £206.55 Greater London 7½% Stock 1977 fully paid			
(b) Stock of 7 members' ties (price £1.35 each) £9.45			
£930.89			£1131.86

of the Society and certify that it is in accordance therewith.

R. G. PEGLER, F.C.A.,
Hon. Auditor.

THE ROYAL NAVAL BIRD

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

£	£	£	£
	Balance 1st December 1973		
455.00	Cash in Bank: Current Account	235.35	
	Deposit Account	202.07	
			437.42
	Subscriptions		
44.33	Under Covenant (Current Year)	64.00	
187.53	Other (Current Year)	204.76	
4.50	Arrears	13.79	
11.25	In Advance	6.37	
247.61			288.92
45.94	Donations: Sundry	22.39	
	Special	130.00	
			152.39
33.18	Income Tax recovered on members covenanted subscriptions and donations		38.95
—	Income Tax Transitional Relief		10.65
14.96	Interest on Investments (gross)		14.96
2.07	Interest on Deposit		18.75
11.75	Tax recovered on Investment Interest (net '71-'72)		—
	Other Receipts		
88.33	Sale of <i>Sea Swallow</i> (Vol. 23 and earlier)	122.23	
1.20	(Vol. 24 in advance)	2.43	
89.53			124.66
2.00	Sale of Christmas Cards (old stock)		0.56
18.35	Sale of <i>Seabirds of South Pacific</i> (77)		35.66
10.50	Sale of Members' Ties (6)		8.94
930.89			£1131.86

I have examined the above account with the books and records of

Costards,
West Lavington,
MIDHURST, Sussex.
1st December 1974.